STORY BY
YOSHINOBU AKITA

ART BY
MURAJI

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

VOLUME
[1]

HEED MY CALL, BEAST! PART 1

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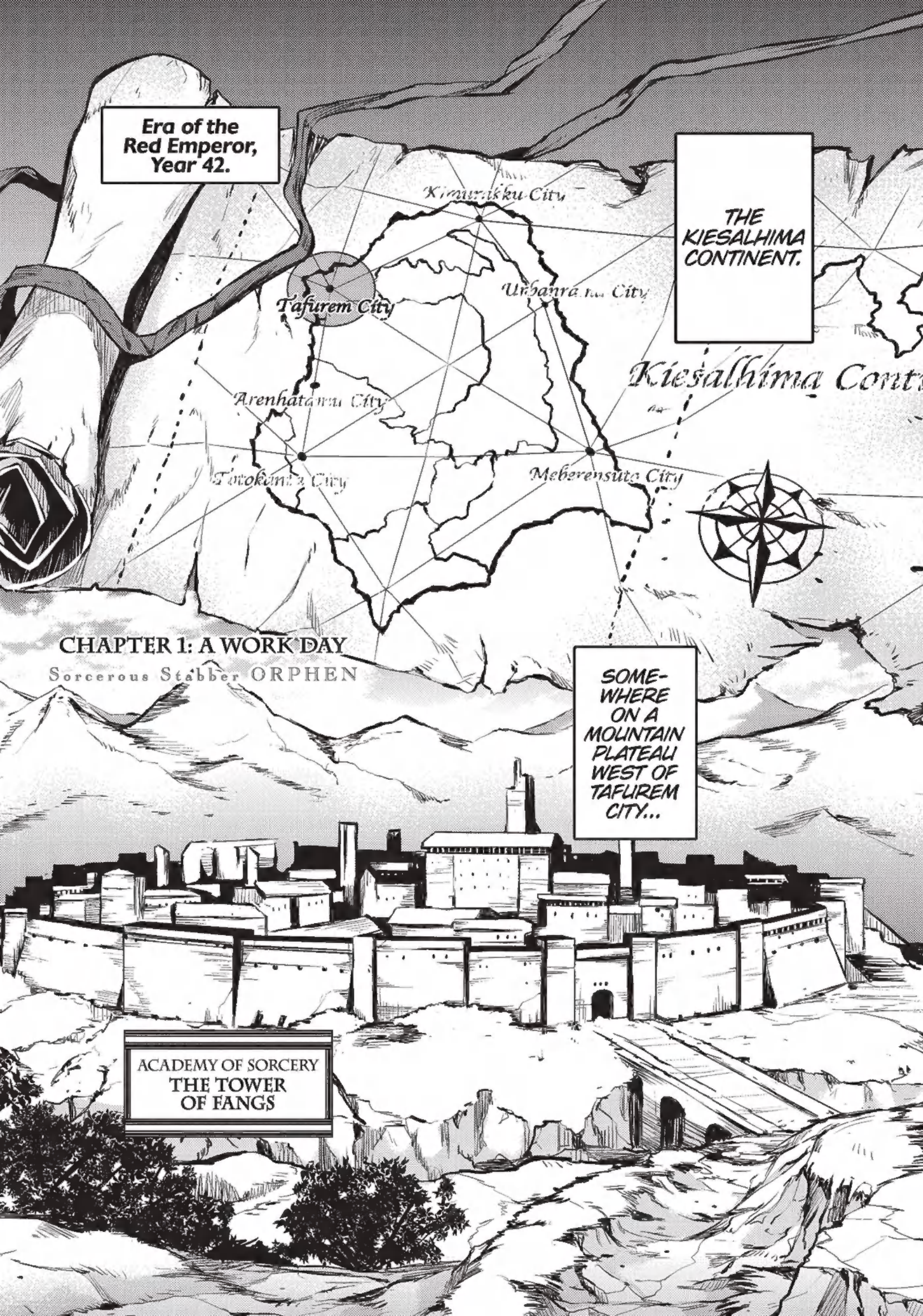
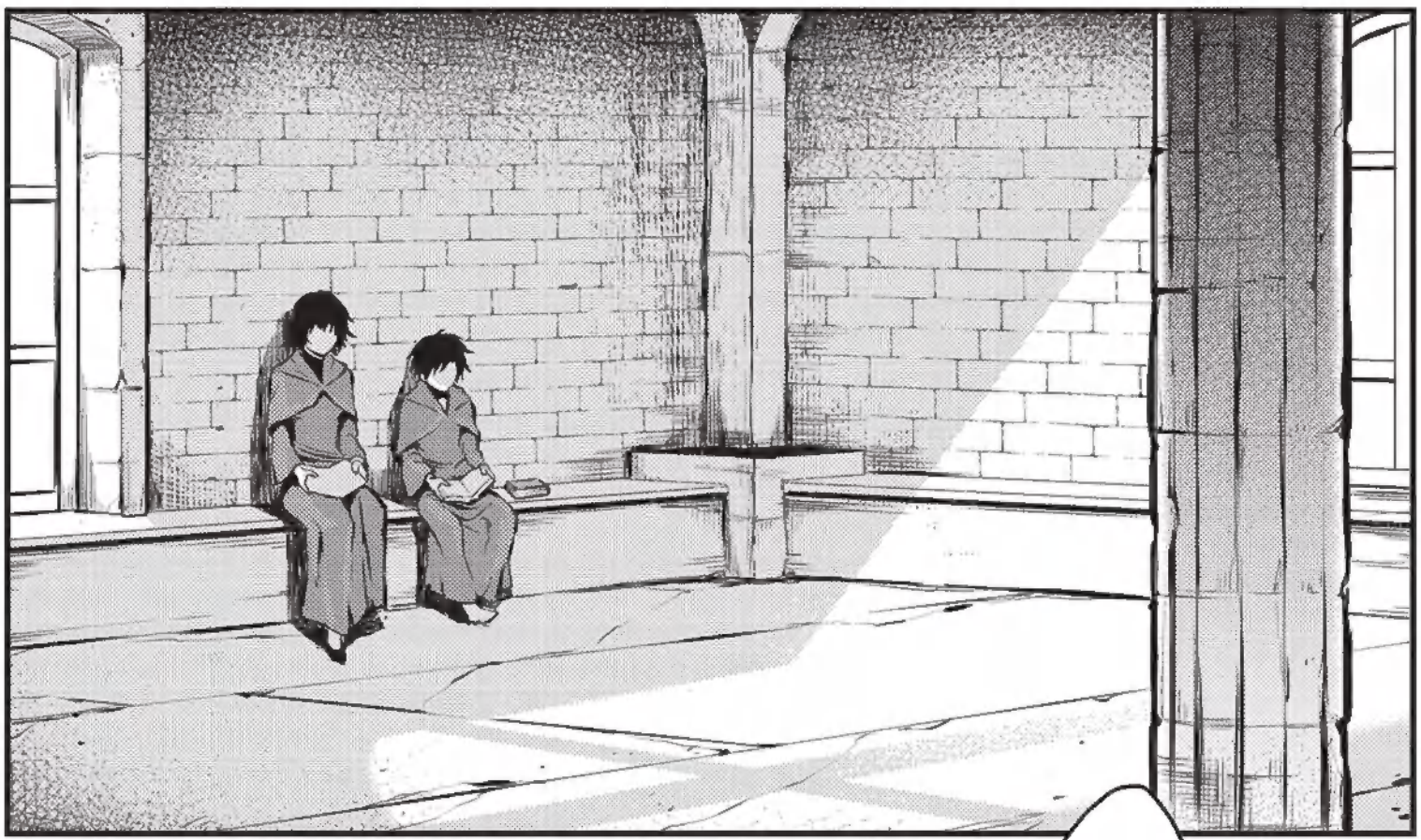
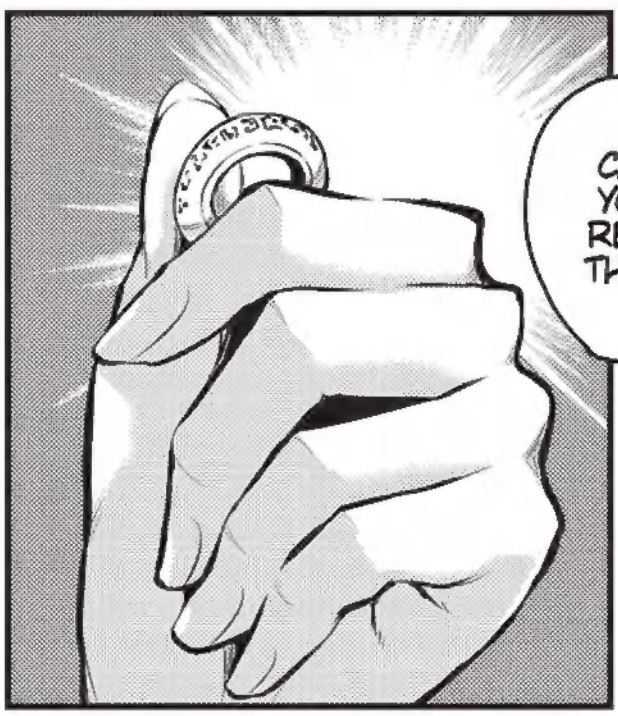

Era of the Red Emperor, Year 42.
Kimurakku City
Tafurem City
Urbanra City
Arenhatarra City
Tarokanta City
Meberensuta City
THE KIESALHIMA CONTINENT.
Kiesalhima Cont
CHAPTER 1: A WORK DAY
Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN
SOME-WHERE ON A MOUNTAIN PLATEAU WEST OF TAFUREM CITY...
ACADEMY OF SORCERY
THE TOWER OF FANGS

ACADEMY GROUNDS: INSTRUCTION HALL

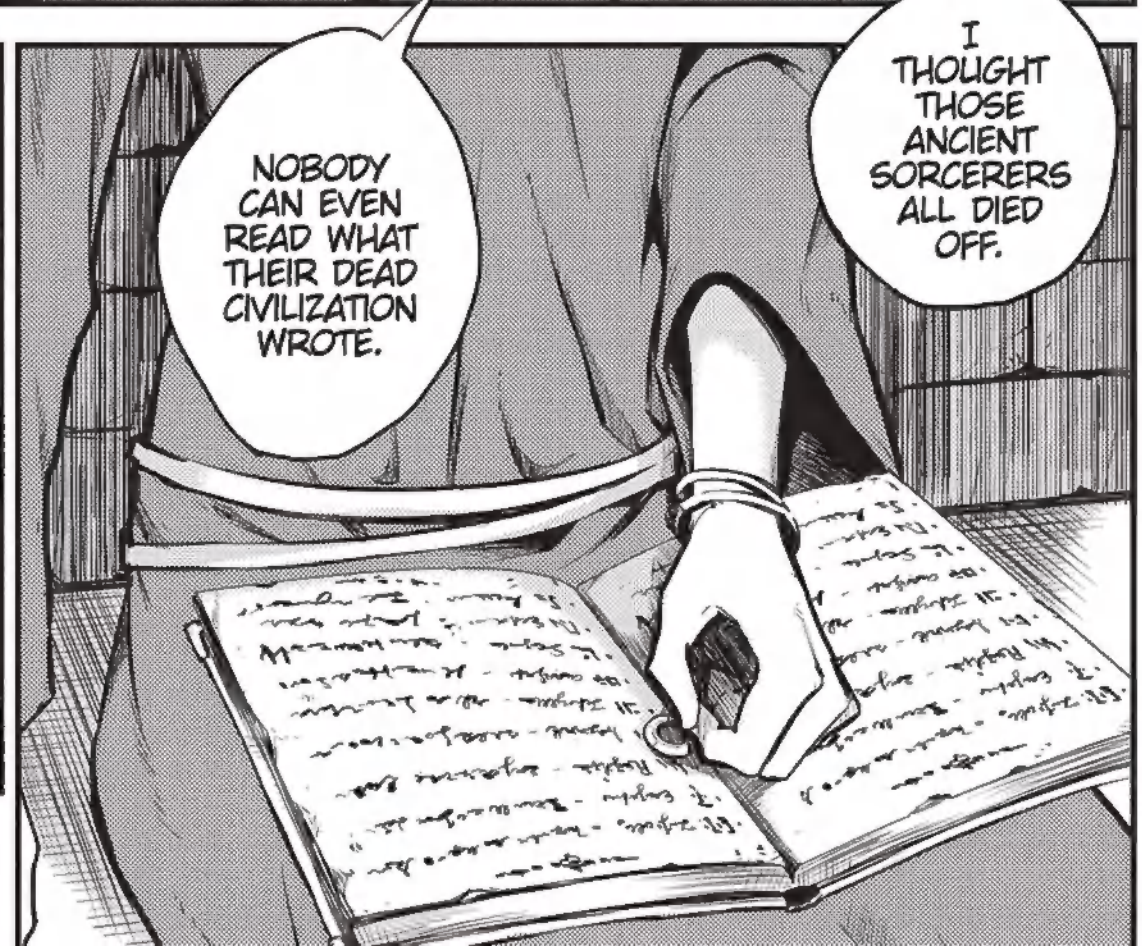




HEH.

THIS RING'S INSCRIBED WITH A LANGUAGE OF ANCIENT SORCERERS, WHO USED COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SORCERY FROM US.
HA
OF COURSE THEY'RE WORDS!
AHA
HA HA
ARE THOSE EVEN WORDS?

OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.


NOBODY CAN EVEN READ WHAT THEIR DEAD CIVILIZATION WROTE.
I THOUGHT THOSE ANCIENT SORCERERS ALL DIED OFF.

HUH? WHY ME?

I'VE BEEN ASKED TO HELP WORK ON IT...

WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AT DECODING THEIR LANGUAGE.

SO YOU NEED TO SHARPEN UP, TOO.

BASED ON RANK ORDER...

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS YOU'LL BE MY ASSISTANT.

POKE

CHIK

BECAUSE ...

?

CHIK

SHF...

I'LL GET TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT, AZALIE?!

KA-TUNK

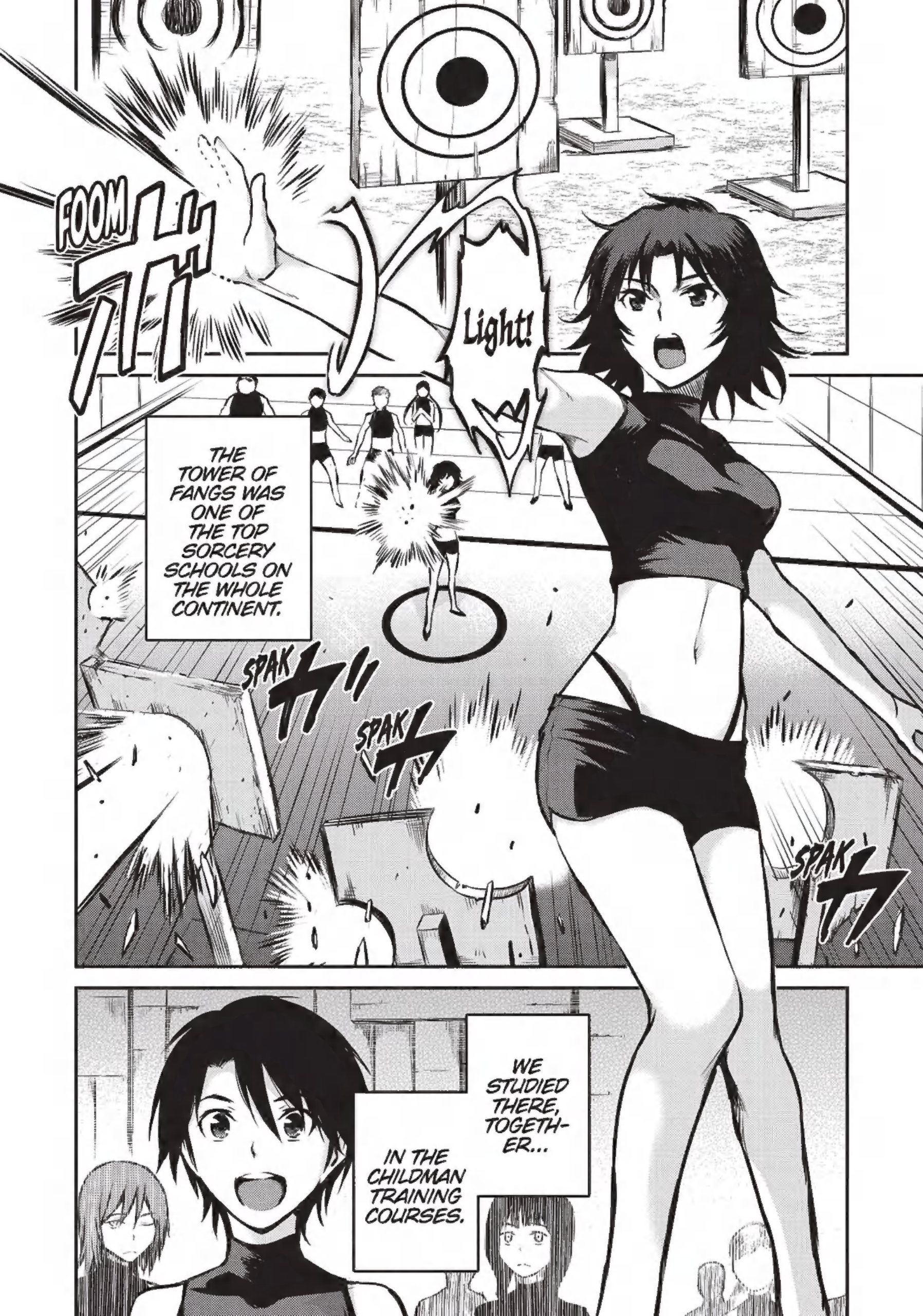
REALLY ?!

FLAP

YUP. BUT FIRST...

AZALIE CAIT-SITH. SHE WAS A LITTLE OLDER THAN ME, BUT WE'D BEEN FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD.

LEARN TO READ SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS THIS RING.


FOOM
Light!
THE TOWER OF FANGS WAS ONE OF THE TOP SORCERY SCHOOLS ON THE WHOLE CONTINENT.
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
WE STUDIED THERE, TOGETHER...
IN THE CHILDMAN TRAINING COURSES.

MASTER CHILDMAN WASN'T JUST OUR TEACHER.

SINCE AZALIE COULD USE BLACK AND WHITE SORCERY, HE PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION TO HER.

HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL SORCERERS ALIVE.

SHE WAS POPULAR AND TALENTED. PEOPLE CALLED HER THE CHAOS WITCH.

I WAS PROUD TO BE HER FRIEND.

COULD YOU COME BY MY STUDY AFTER DINNER TONIGHT?

KRYLAN-CELO.

BUT ONE DAY...

OH!

SURE.

IT'S AN UNKNOWN TYPE OF SPELL, SO I'LL NEED HELP.

I WANT TO RUN A LITTLE EXPERIMENT ON AN ANCIENT SPELL THAT USES THE SAME WRITING AS THIS RING--*WITHOUT* THE ELDERS KNOWING.

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW HER SMILE.

GREAT. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

WHUMP

DON'T LOOK AT ME!!

THAT NIGHT, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...

HUFF!

HUFF!

HUFF!

GRIK

GRIK

DON'T LOOK ...!

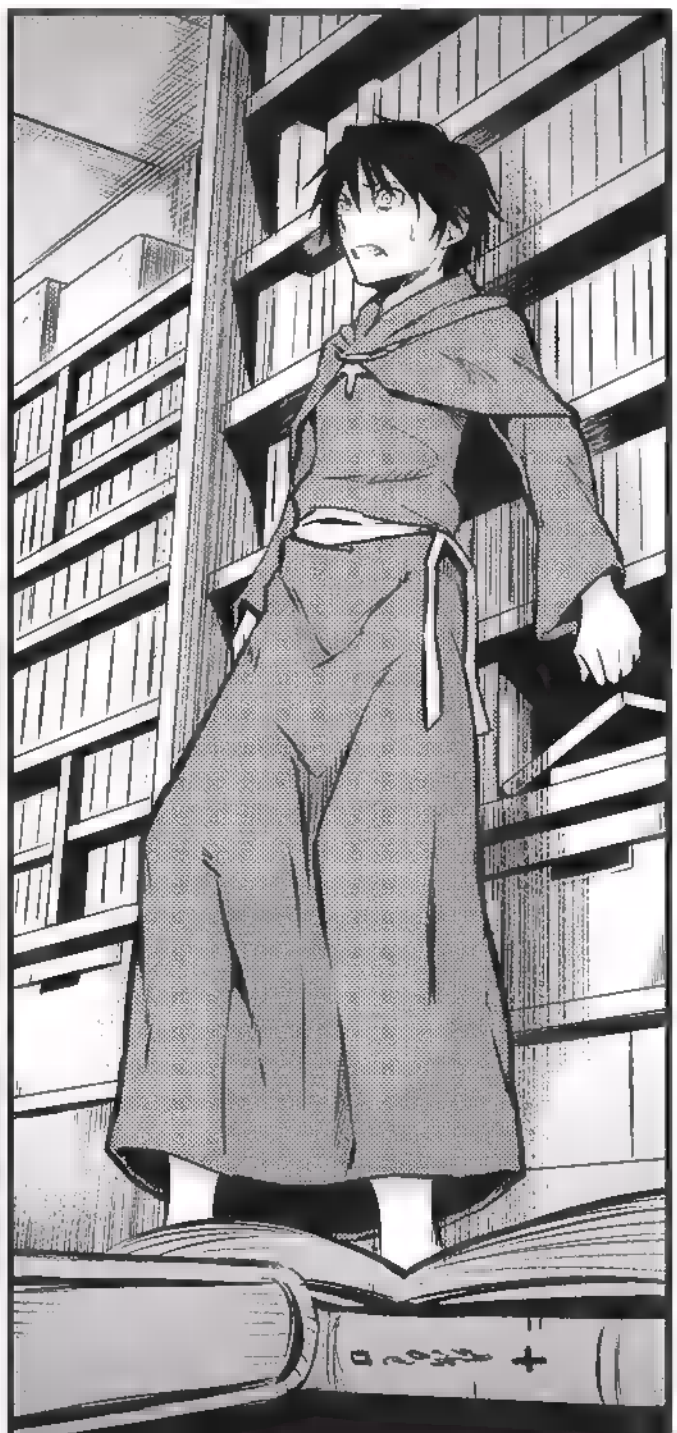
PLEASE... JUST LEAVE ME...!

POK

GRUK

GRIK

SNAP



SHRIP SKRK

SKRULCH

SHE...

CRACK

KOFF!

I'LL GET HELP!

GRIK

A...

GRIK

KOFF!

AZALIE?

KRIK

HRRK!

JUST GET *OUT* OF HERE ...!!

SPLIK

PANT!

KRAK

KRIK

PANT!

PANT!

NO...! NO!

DON'T TELL... ANYONE ...!

THUMP

HURK!

SPLORTCH

SPLORK
SHAK

LOOK AT...
DON'T...

ME...!

CRACK
SPLURCH
GRIK
GRIK
GRIK

SPLORCH
SPLORCH

HAAH... AAH...!

GRAAAGH!

CRACK

SPLURTCH!

SNAP

KRAK

KRIK

GRIK
KRAK
SPLITCH
HUFF...
HUFF...
AAAA RUUGHH!!
KLL
JOLT

AHHH!!
WHA ...?
KRIK
KRAK

TRR
TAA
TAAA
AZALIE ...?!

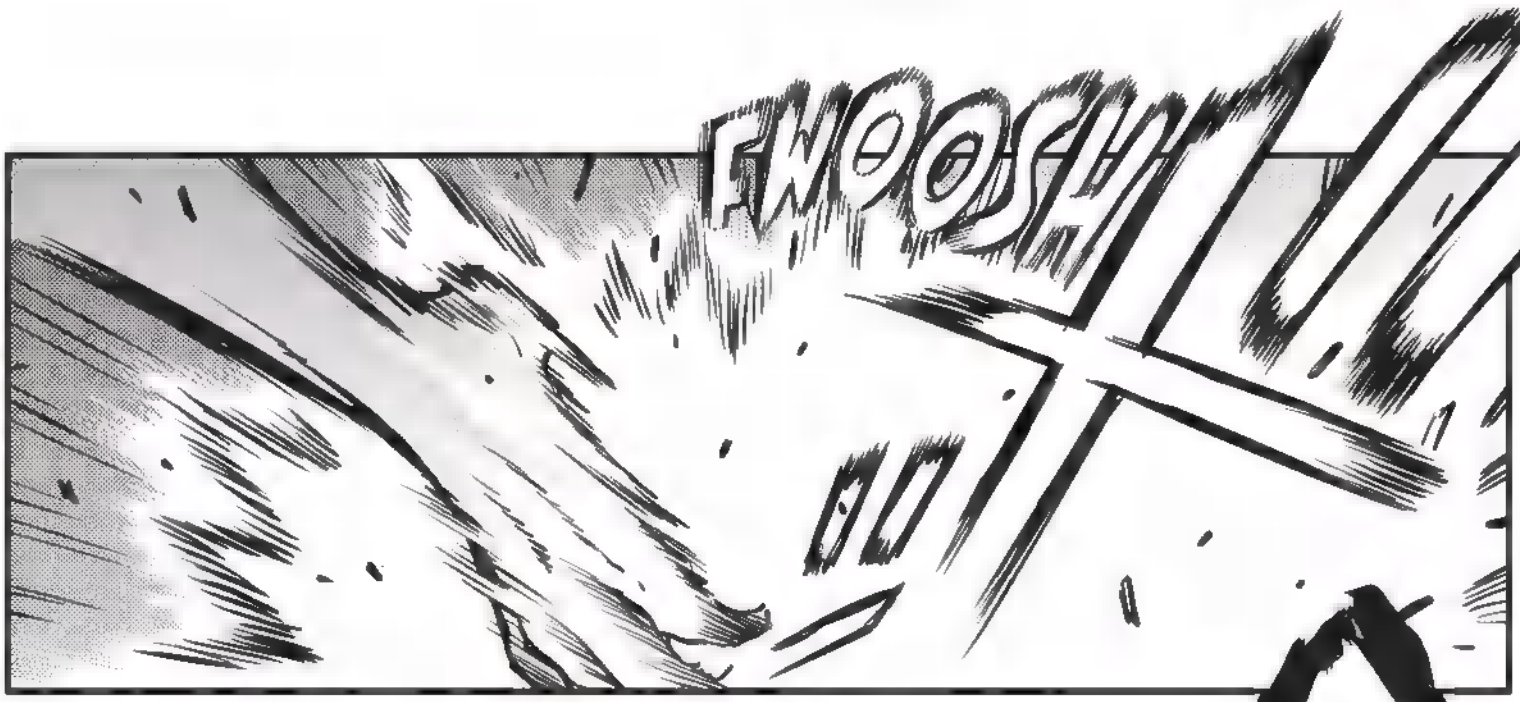
WHY ...?

HNNNF...

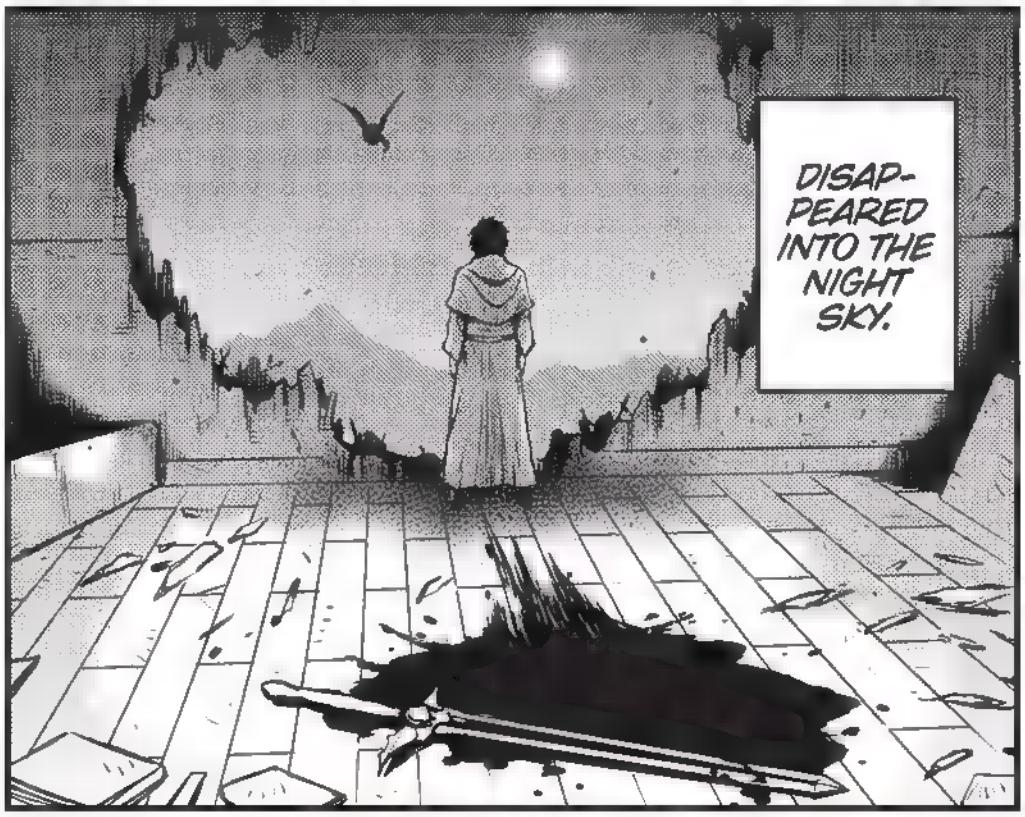
FWISH

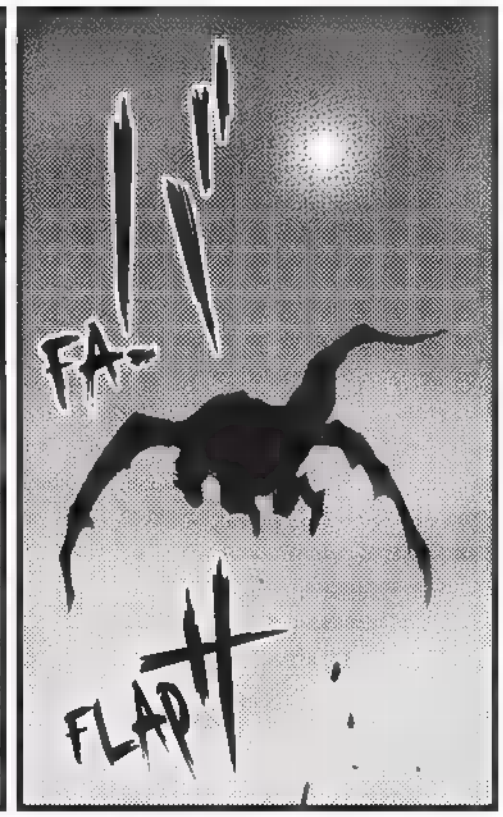
WHOOM
NGH!

THE MASSIVE CREATURE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN AZALIE...
HAWUFF
!!
"DON'T LOOK AT ME!!"


FWOOSH

AZALIE !!





I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HER IN THAT ROOM.

AND I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN.

SOUTHWEST KIESALHIMA:
TOTOKANTA CITY

Five Years Later.

BUGUPS-in

ZZ

ZZ

BAM

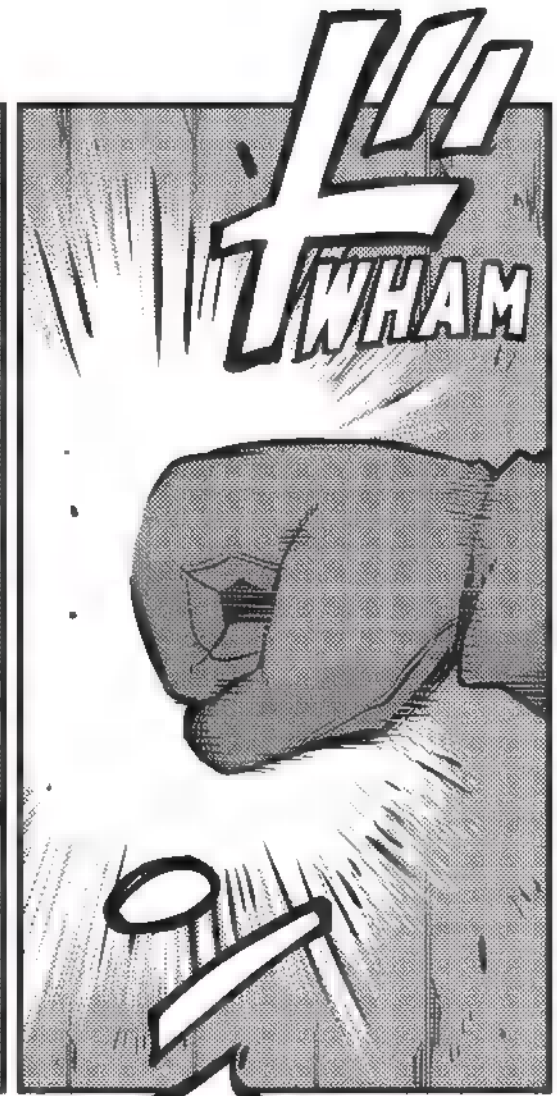
RISE AND FRIGGIN' SHINE!!

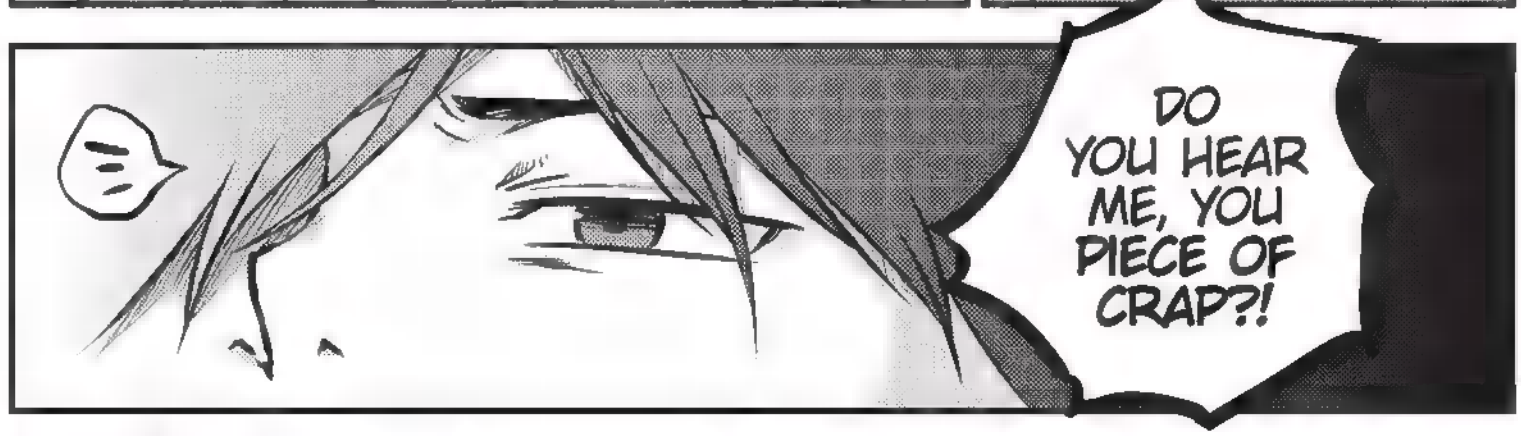
HEY! ASS-HOLE!

BAM

BAM

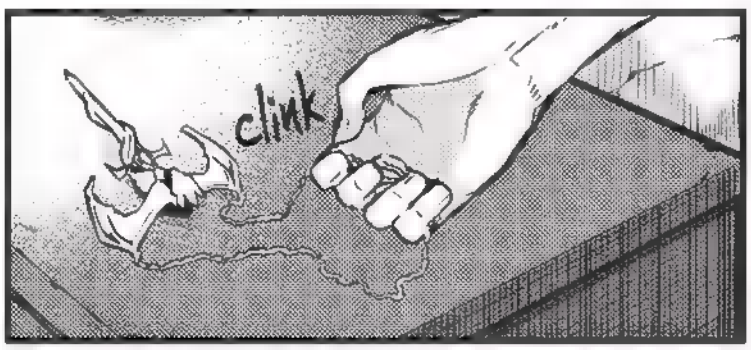
BAM
GET YOUR LAZY BUTT OUTTA BED!
OR I'LL GRAB A STICK AND BEAT YOU AWAKE!!
BAM


WHAM


DO YOU HEAR ME, YOU PIECE OF CRAP?!

TCH!
RRGH! OKAY, THAT'S IT-- TODAY'S THE DAY THAT I, THE GREAT VULCANO VOLKAN, PUT AN END TO YOUR UGLY LIFE!!
BROTHER, PLEASE CALM DOWN...
SHWUF
GET UP! I TOLD YOU DAYS AGO...
WE'VE GOT WORK TODAY!!
AND I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU WEASEL OUT OF IT!

SHFF
IT'S WAY TOO EARLY FOR THAT RACKET.
SHFF


clink

SLAAM
SHUT THE HELL UP!!
JOLT

DID YOU HEAR HIM? THE LITTLE TROLL THREATENED TO KILL ME.

SNIK

I CAME ALL THE WAY TO THIS RAT-INFESTED DUMP TO *ESCORT* YOU!

YOU DON'T TELL ME TO SHUT UP!

WHAM

RGH...

DON'T MAKE ME GET A GIANT ROLLING PIN...

TO SMEAR-CRUSH THE LIFE OUTTA YOU!

HRRN...

SWAP

COME OUT *NOW*, YOU OVER-SIZED INGRATE!!

KRAKL

KRAKL

I release thee...

SWISH

CLENCH

VREEE
Sword ...
STOMP
of Light!
CHOOM

Hell.
BZZKT

KRA
KOOM
YEEP!

HAGH...
YO.
VOLKAN.

S-SIR, ON THIS BEAUTIFUL MORN...
SURELY YOU WOULD NOT DENY US YOUR GRACIOUS PRESENCE?

TWITCH

YOUR ASSES WAIT OUTSIDE !!

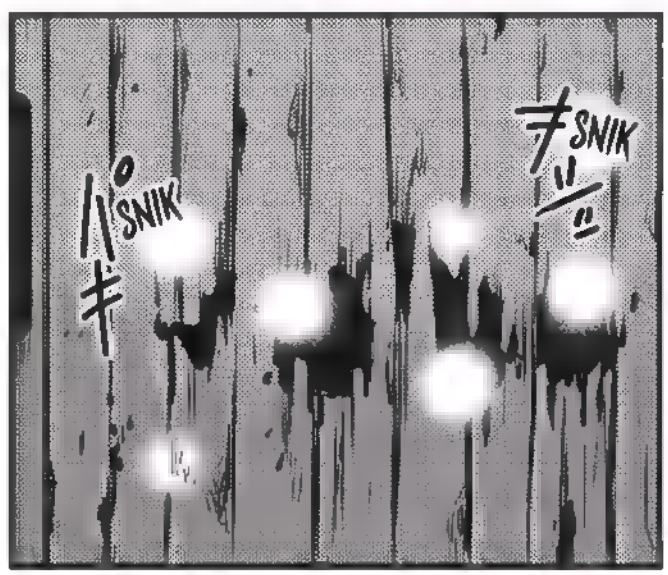
THROB ゼッ ギ
THROB ゼッ ギ
THROB ゼッ ギ
YOU WANNA TRY THAT LAST LINE AGAIN?

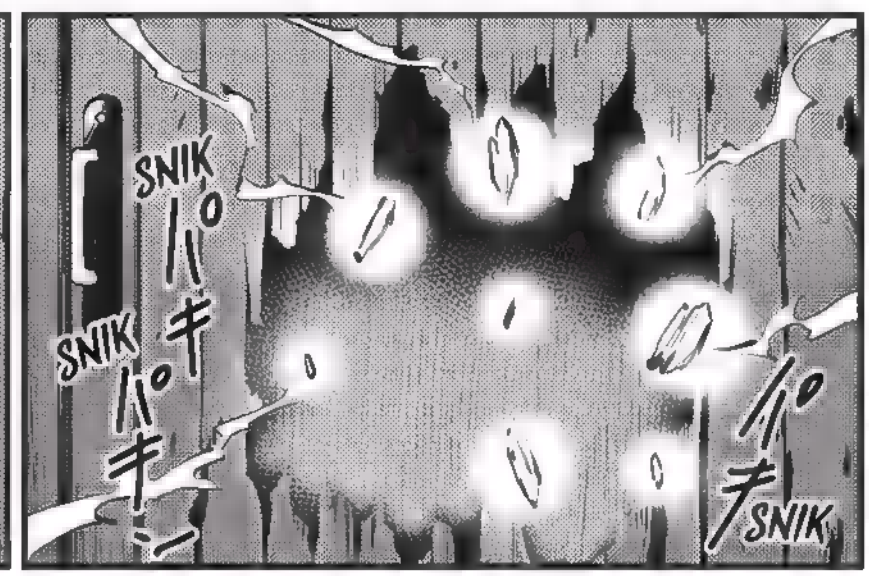
SAYS THE GUY DUMB ENOUGH TO OWE ME MONEY.
YOU DIRTY LOAN SHARK!
ZOOM
Y-YOU'D BETTER COME QUICK!

OOPS.
BETTER FIX THAT.
A WORK DAY, HUH?
YAAAWN!
KRAK

I repair thee, Scars of the Sunset.
BWO
SWIS

BW
OOO
OOO

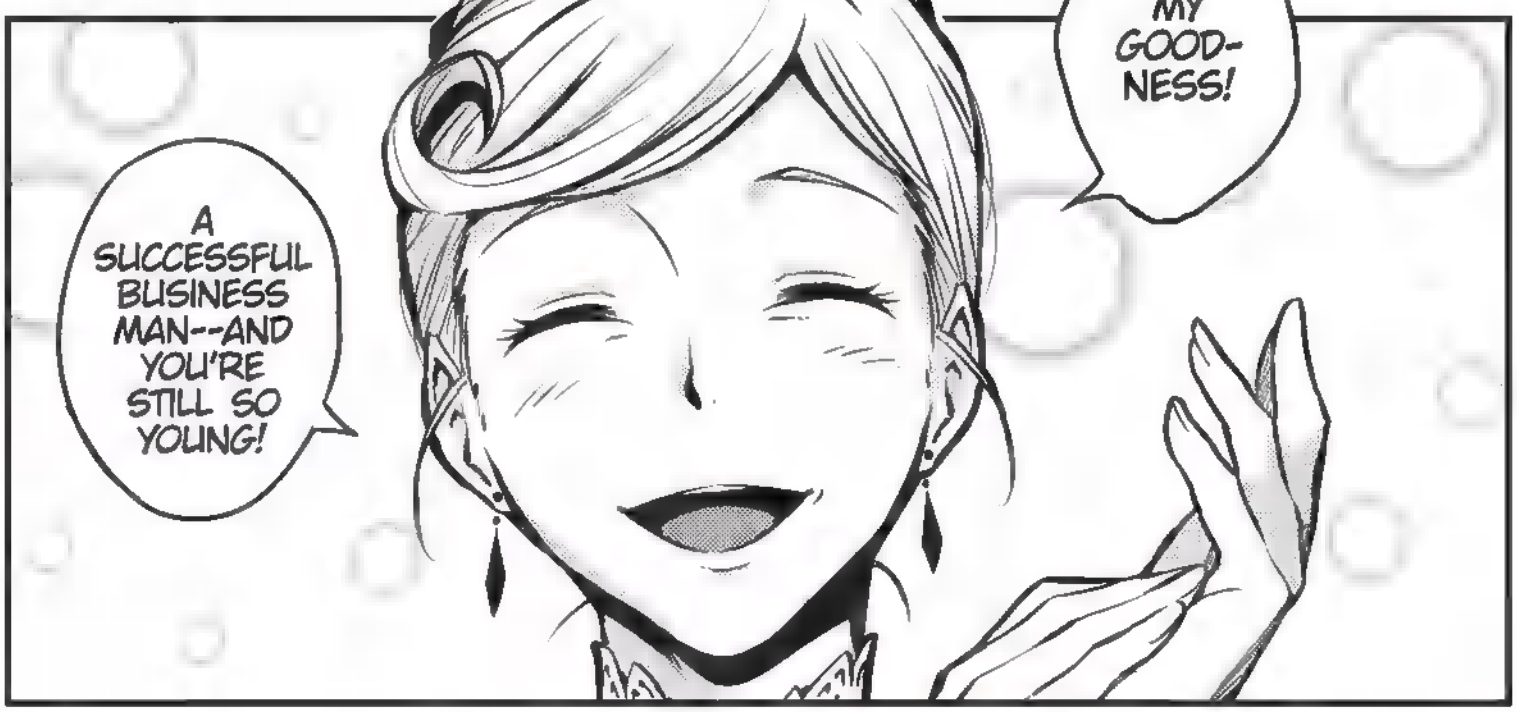

SNIK
SNIK


SNIK
SNIK
SNIK

THAT OUGHTA DO IT.

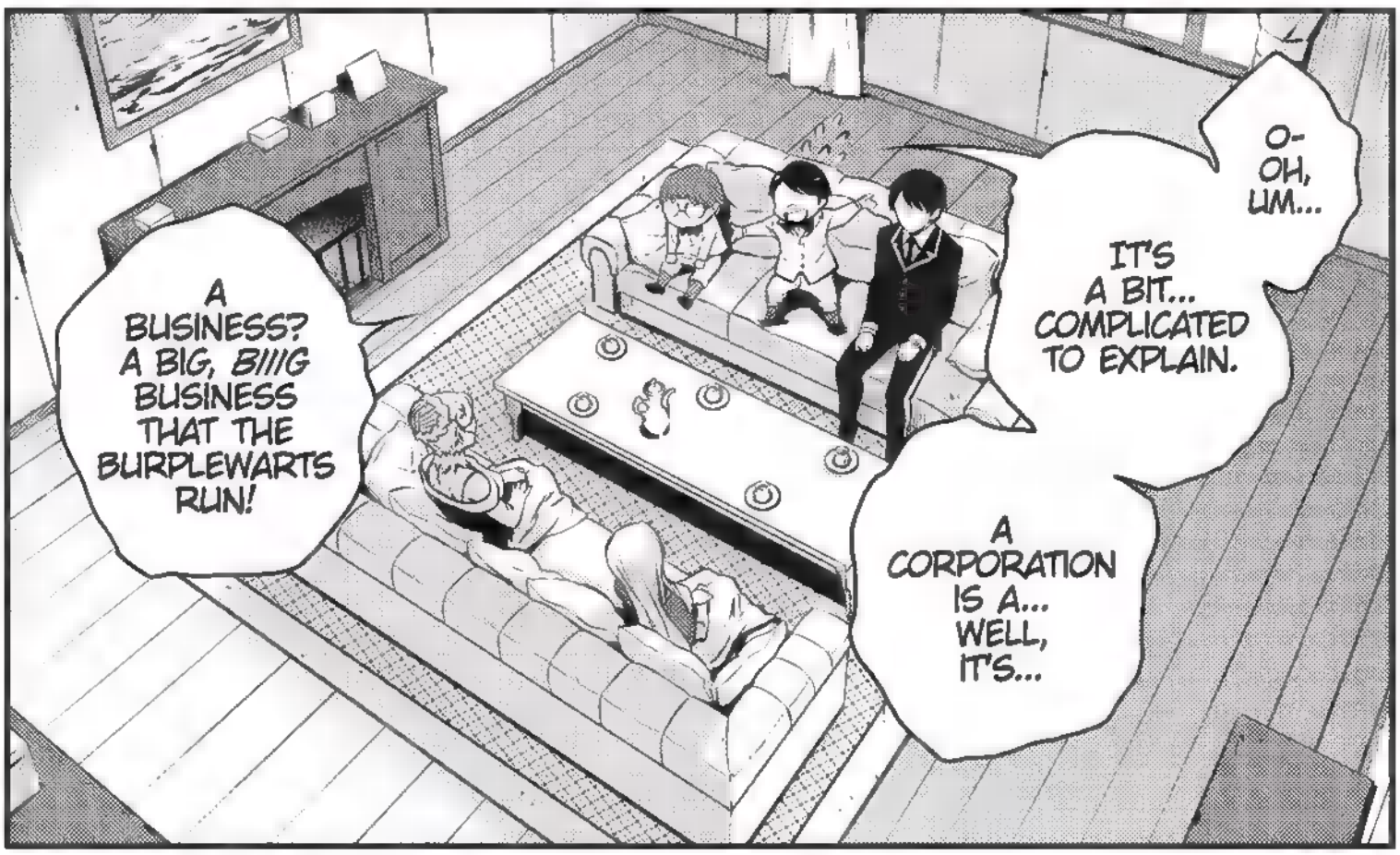
KNOCK
KNOCK

THE EVERLASTING ESTATE

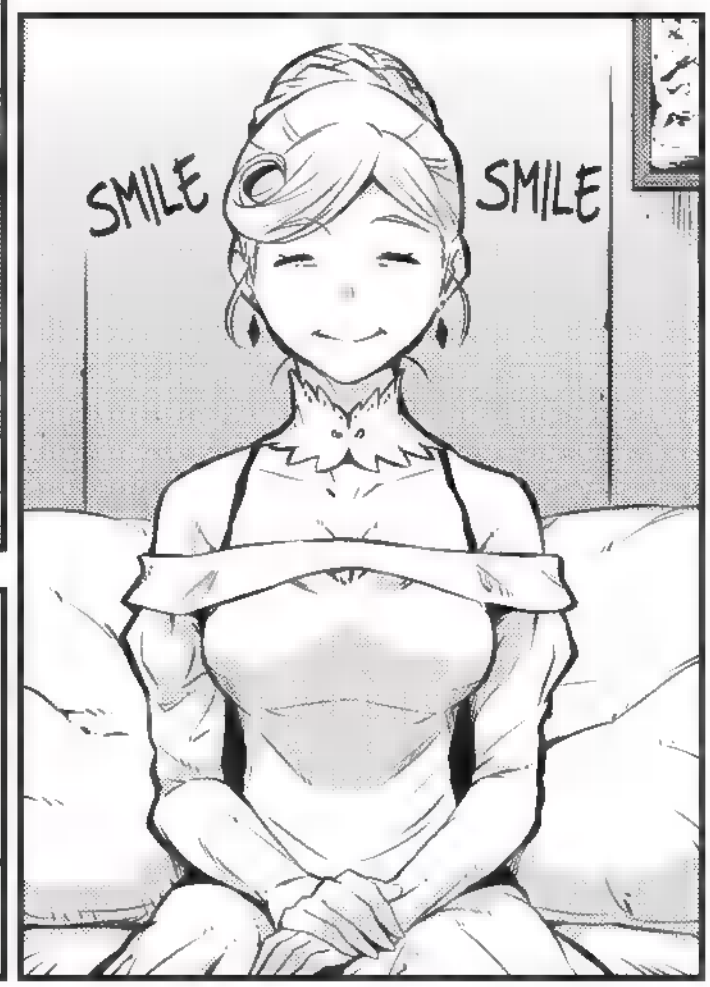

A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN--AND YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG!
MY GOOD-NESS!

UHH...
TWITCH

I DON'T KNOW THE TERM.
CORPORATION?
IN OUR KINGDOM, EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE BURPLEWARTS CORPORATION!
ISN'T HE *AMAZING*, MADAME?
ACTUALLY, I...



...
GLAAARe
WAIT, I'M THE BURP-WART GUY?!
CLENCH

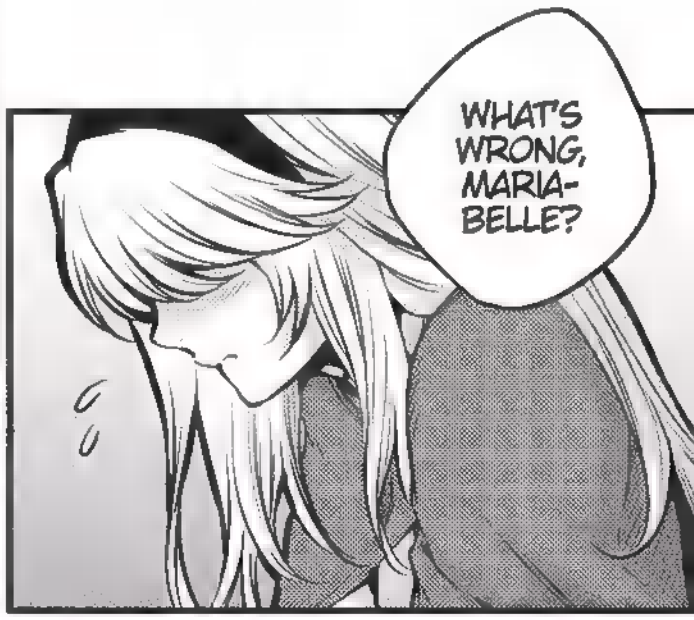

SMILE
SMILE

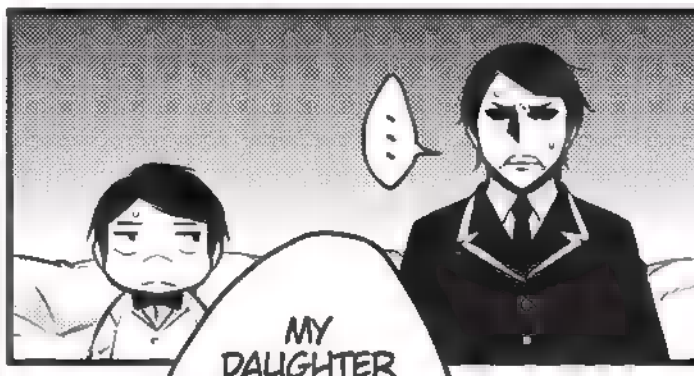
Y-YES, MADAME?
MASTER BURPLE-WARTS?

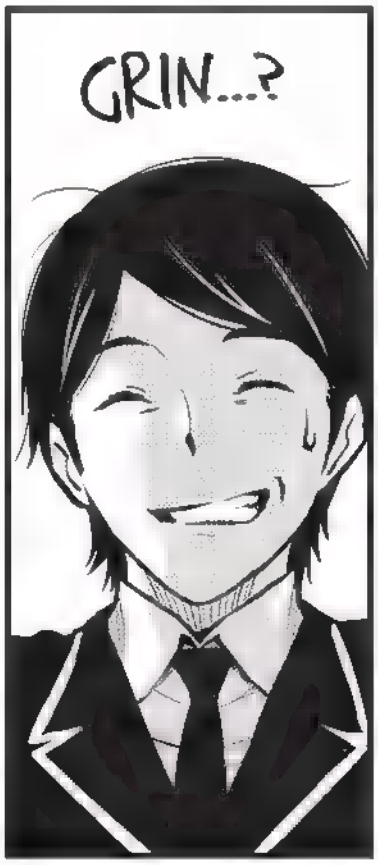
BUT ANY YOUNG MAN WOULD BE A LITTLE TONGUE-TIED AT A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW.
I SEE YOU AREN'T THE TALKATIVE SORT.

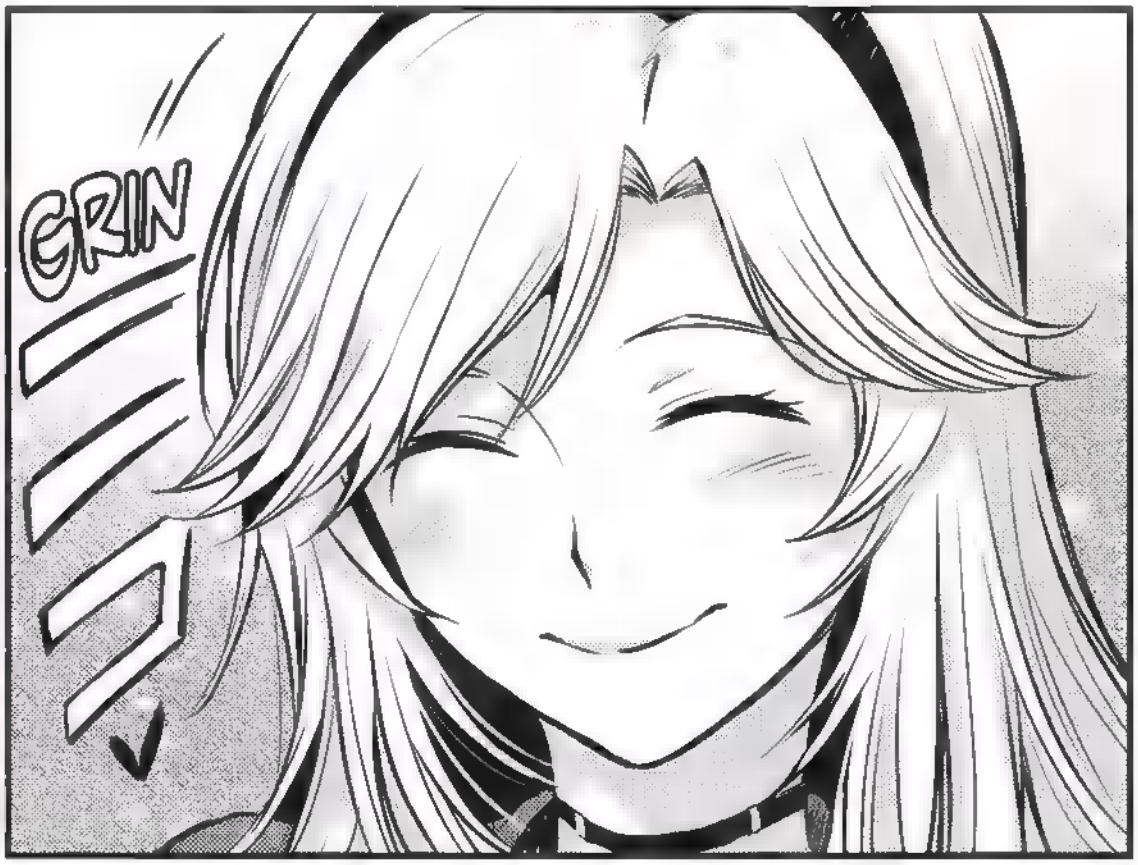
KA-
MARRIAGE INTERVIEW ?!
BOOM

SHE'S USUALLY MUCH MORE OPEN AND TALKATIVE.





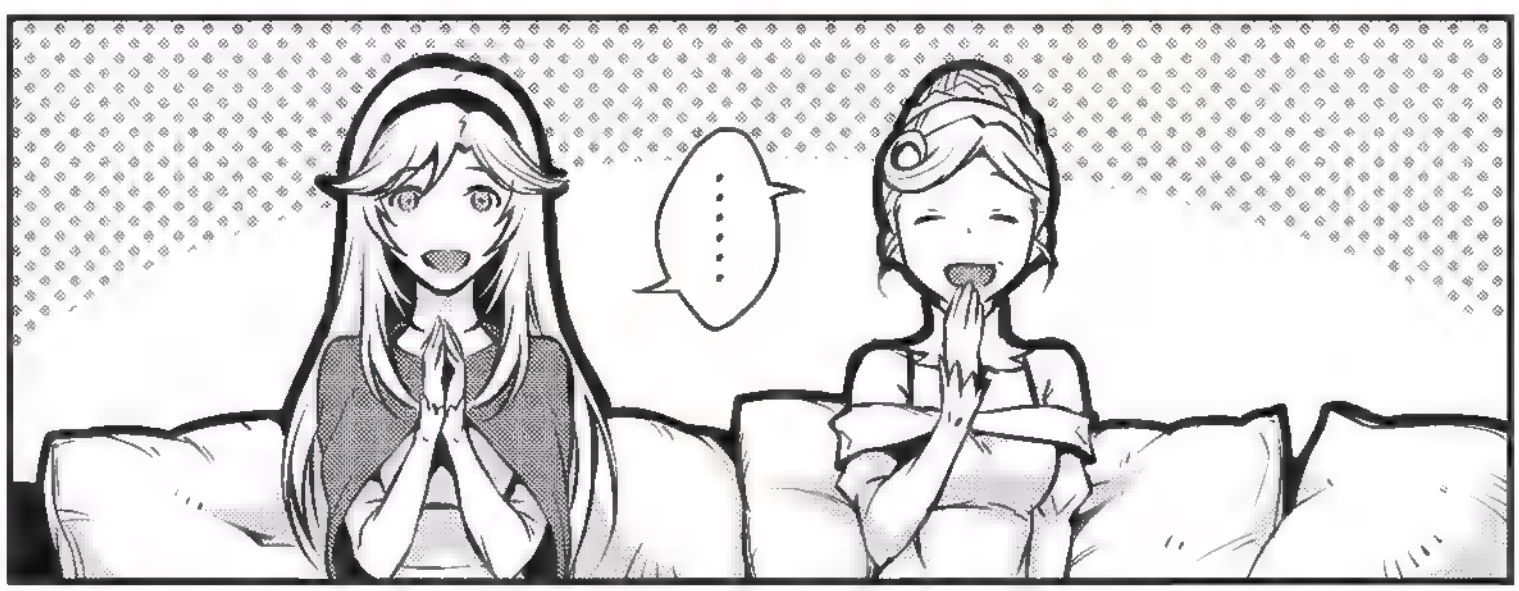




MASTER BURPLE-WARTS, MIGHT I ASK...
WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS IS YOUR FAMILY IN?

IS A FREAKIN' MARRIAGE SCAM!
NOW I GET IT. THAT DICK'S PLAN TO GET RICH QUICK...
DICK
SIP
SIP

WHAT?!
THEY CULTIVATE SLEEPING POTIONS!!
GLEAAAM
HUH ?!
LEAP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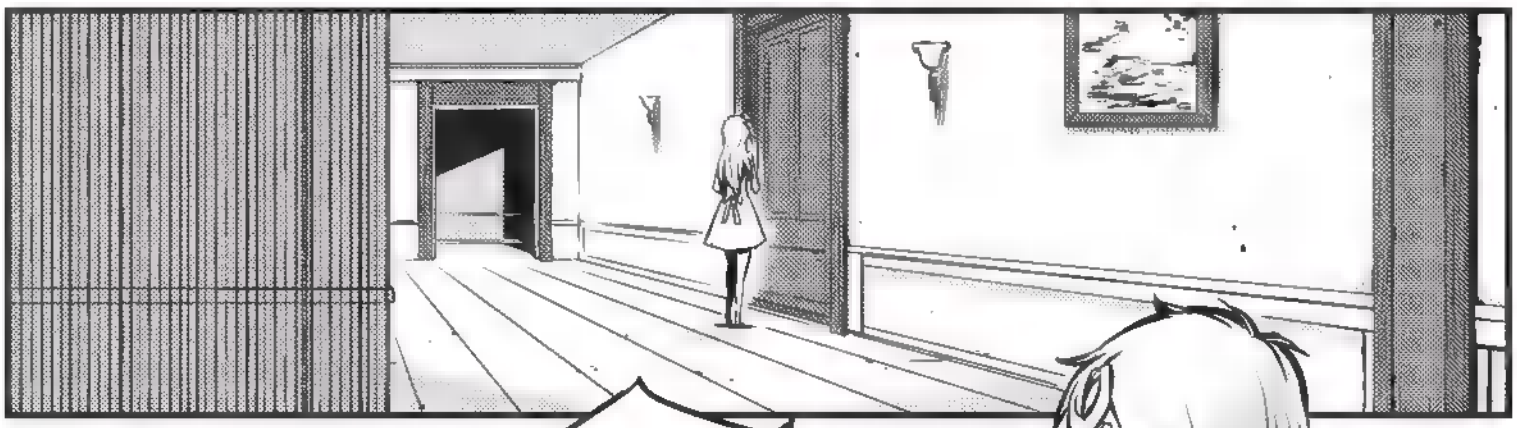
WHAT A STEAMING PILE OF BULL-CRAP!



YOU'RE JUST A USELESS SORCER-ER!

YOU COULDN'T IMPROV YOUR WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG!

HEY, HIGH-CLASS LADIES PROBABLY *SWIM* IN SLEEPING POTIONS!

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

FIRST OFF, *POTIONS* AREN'T CULTIVATED!

YOU CULTIVATE INGREDIENTS!

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMB

YOU SCREAM ME OUT OF BED, STUFF ME INTO THIS CHAFING, EXPENSIVE, *RENTED* MONSTROSITY, HAUL ME TO A MANSION WITHOUT EXPLANATION...

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU EXPECT ME TO *DO* HERE?!

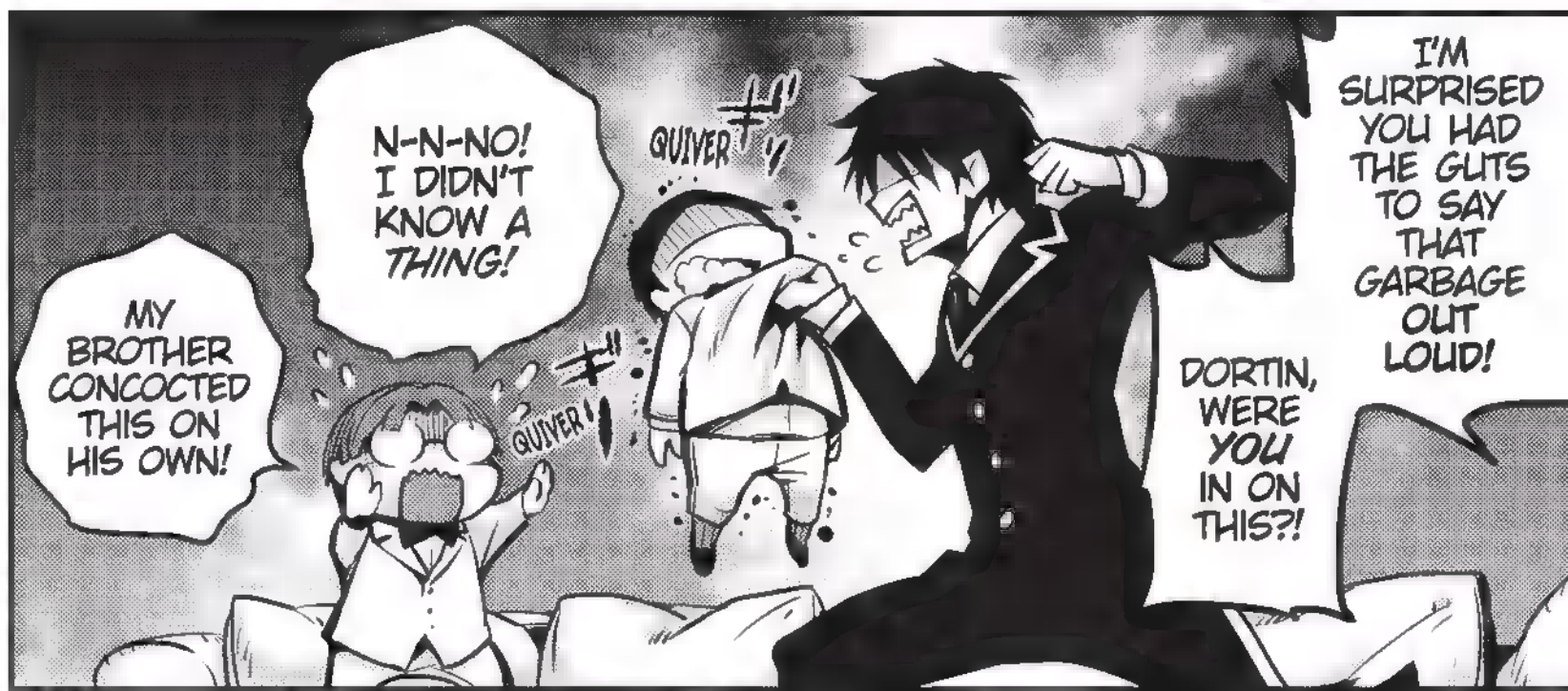
AND ONLY NOW YOU TELL ME TO BE POTION MAGNATE MASTER PIMPLE-FARTS?!

RUMBLE

RIGHT. RIGHT.
MAKES PERRRFECT SENSE.
CRICK

BONG
BING
YOU'LL EMBODY MASTER BURPLEWARTS IN ALL WAYS, CONVINCE THAT GIRL TO MARRY YOU...
AND NEVER EVEN HINT AT THE TRUTH!!

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?


MY BROTHER CONCOCTED THIS ON HIS OWN!
N-N-NO! I DIDN'T KNOW A THING!
QUIVER
QUIVER
DORTIN, WERE YOU IN ON THIS?!
I'M SURPRISED YOU HAD THE GUTS TO SAY THAT GARBAGE OUT LOUD!

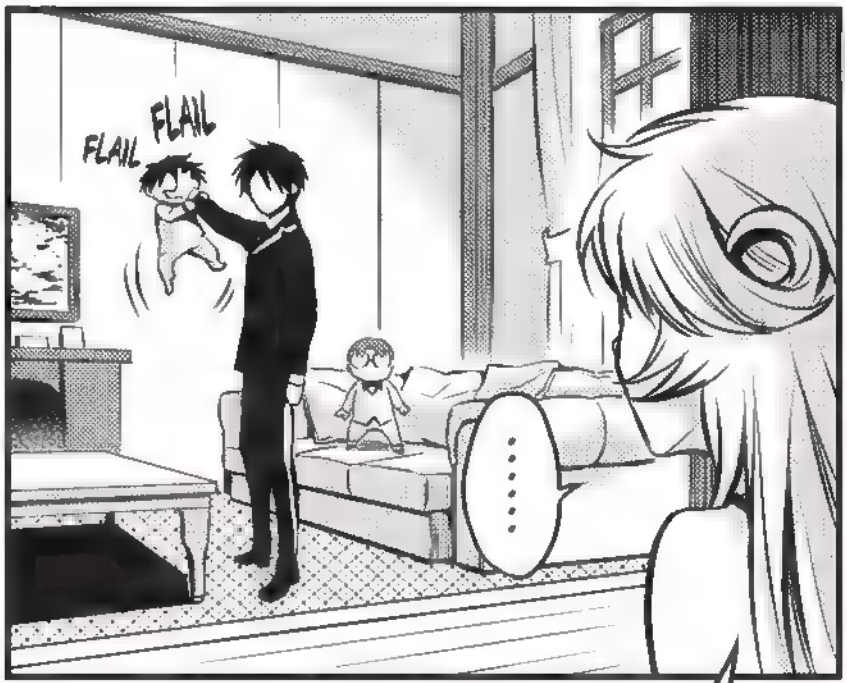
FLING
WHAM
YOU TURDS !!

MARRIAGE FRAUD. FOR THE LOVE OF...
UGH.
YOU DRAGGED ME OUT OF BED TO TRY TO SELL MY ASS, IN THIS SUIT, TO THOSE WOMEN?
TUG
FRAUD?
DON'T SAY THAT DIRTY WORD.
FRAUD'S A CRIME USED TO PREY ON GOOD, INNOCENT PEOPLE.
BOFF
THEN WHAT KINDA "WORK" IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?
YOU SAID THIS WAS A JOB TO PAY OFF YOUR DEBT TO ME.
?!
WHAP
THANKS TO ME, YOU GET TO MARRY INTO A FILTHY RICH FAMILY.
THAT'S THE GENIUS PART.
SO YOU WON'T CARE ABOUT THE POCKET CHANGE I OWE--

YOU EARNED--
KA-CHAK

FLAIL
FLAIL

GYA! NOOOOO!
FLAIL
FLAIL
THE BALLS ON YOU.
I RELEASE THEE~~
BROTHER!
HOW 'BOUT A SWORD OF LIGHT WITH THIS HAND?
SO YOU NEVER TRY THIS AGAIN.


FLAIL
FLAIL
.....

OH, WHOOPS! SORRY.
KA-CHAK

PEEK

PAFF
PAFF
PANIC
PANIC
I KNOW, I KNOW!
GET YOUR CRAP TOGETH-ER!
I FORGOT TO KNOCK FIRST.
HI! I'M CLAIOMH.
YOU'RE HERE FOR A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW WITH MY OLDER SISTER.
KNOCK KNOCK
P-PLEASE COME IN.
CHAK

DID SHE HEAR US THROUGH THE DOOR?

TOK

TIK

.....

TIK

TOK

MAYBE SHE DIDN'T...

NICE TO MEET YOU. SO!

YOU'RE CON ARTISTS, HUH?

WH-WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

I EAVES-DROPPED ON YOU.

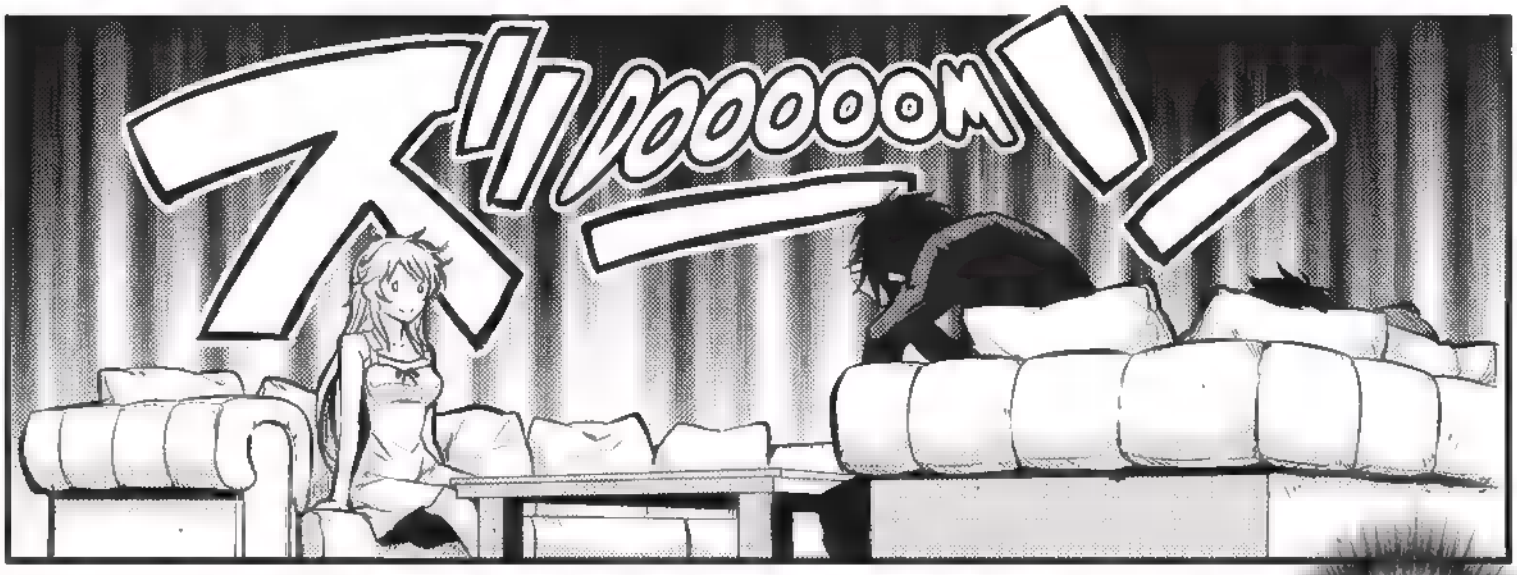
BA-DUMP

CRACK

NOPE, SHE SURE DID!!!

PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE TIME?
HMM.

FOR... HOW LONG?


ズーンOOOOOOM!

SHFF
HOW MUCH ARE YOU GONNA TAKE HER FOR?
HUH?

DOESN'T DEFRAUDING NOBILITY ...

GET YOU FIFTEEN YEARS OF HARD LABOR?!

CRAP. THIS IS BAD.

WHAT? UH, NO...

I WASN'T REALLY GONNA--

YOU WANT TO CON MY SISTER...

NEE HEE HEE!

AND DO UNSPEAKABLE THINGS TO HER, RIGHT?

WELL, YOU'RE SCAMMERS.

I DIDN'T PLAN THIS!!

I DIDN'T DO IT!

HE THREATENED TO RUN ME OVER WITH A CARRIAGE!

HOW COULD YOU?!

EEEP!

GYAAA!

WE'RE T-TESTING CITIZEN AWARENESS OF FRAUD--

SEE, I... UM, WE'RE ACTUALLY MEMBERS OF THE SORCERERS' ALLIANCE.

STOP LYING--YOU SET THIS UP AND DRAGGED US INTO IT!

I WAS AGAINST THIS FROM THE START!

GYAAAH!

BUT WE NEED... DATA...

WE'VE DEVELOPED A NEW SYSTEM TO COMBAT RAMPANT SCAMS...

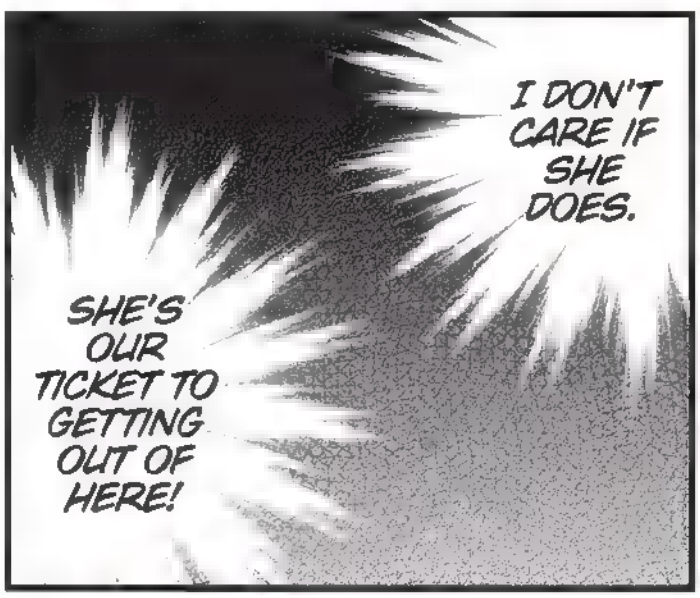
CHOOM

I release thee, Sword of Light!

ALL RIGHT, CLAIOMH. FROM WHAT I CAN TELL...
YOU'RE NOT IN A HURRY TO TURN US IN.

NOPE!

AH, THAT WAS FUNNY.
HEE HEE!
JUST CALL ME CLAIOMH.


I DON'T CARE IF SHE DOES.
SHE'S OUR TICKET TO GETTING OUT OF HERE!

CRACK
UH, CLAIOMH? I HAVE A--

DOES SHE HAVE SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE?
WHY NOT, THOUGH?

THA-

THOOM

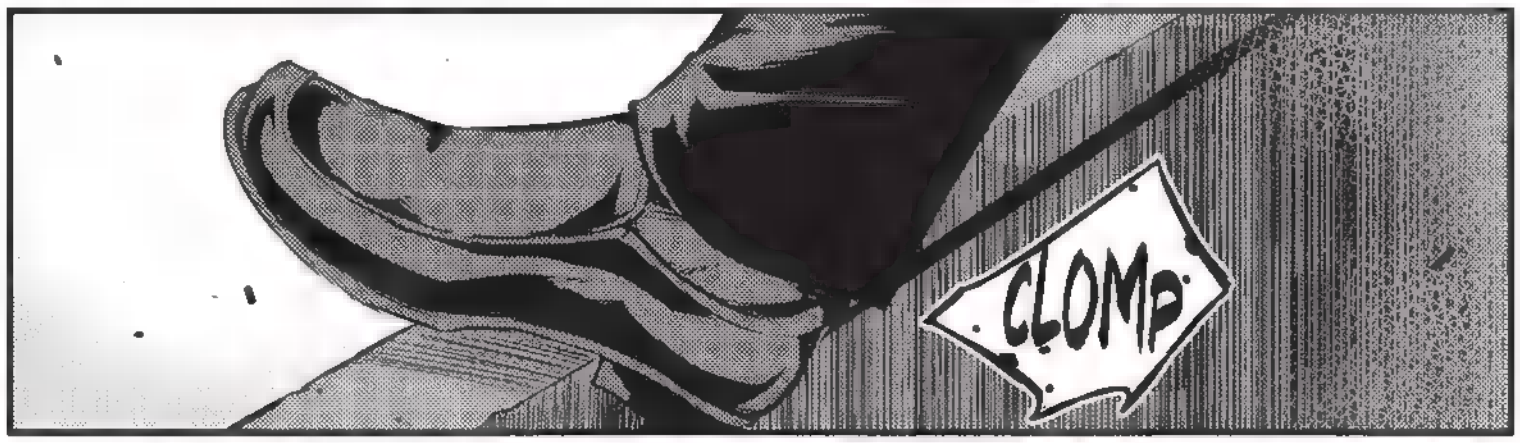
CRACK
AAH!
KRRSH
THUMP

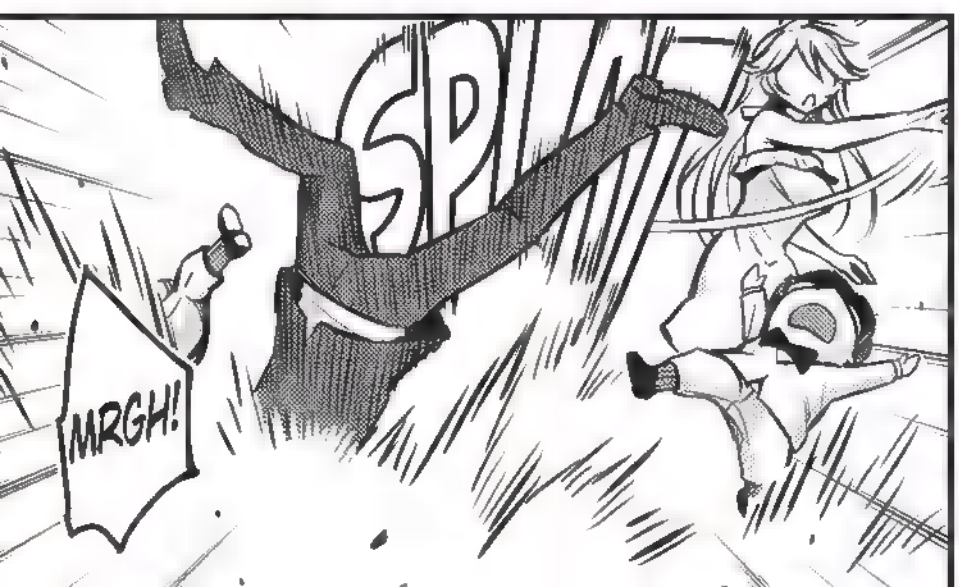
GRAB
NO, WAIT! MASTER BURPLE-WARTS!
VOLKAN! DORTIN!
THAT'S OUR CUE TO SCRAM!

THAT'S NOT MY NAME.
YA NK

I'M THE SORCERER, ORPHEN !!

C'MON, GET IT TOGE-THER!
YEAH.
ORPHEN ...?
M-MY KNEES WON'T...



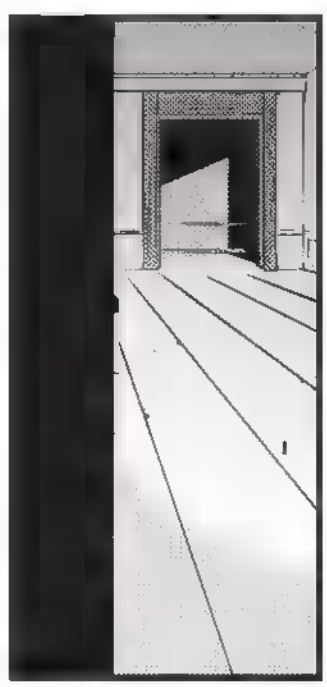


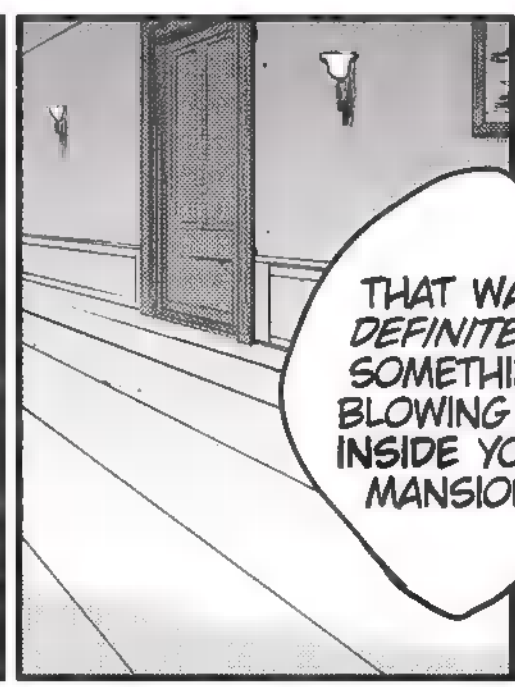
LIKE I CARE RIGHT NOW!

YOU'RE A SORCERER WHO USED A FAKE NAME?
MY TEACHER SAID ANYBODY WHO FAKES THEIR NAME IS A CROOK!

OW!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

NO MEN WORK HERE...
AND THAT BOOM CAME FROM OUR STOREHOUSE!
LOOK, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE!




THAT WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING BLOWING UP INSIDE YOUR MANSION.

SHWF
THE HELL IT DID.
PAFF
PAFF

THAT WAS MY SISTER.
EFF MY LIFE.
?!
CLOP
WHERE'S HER ROOM?!
FOLLOW ME!
SLAM
TMP

WHAT IS THIS ?!
I THOUGHT WE WERE GETTING OUTTA HERE!
TMP TMP TMP
HEY! SORCER-ER!
GREAT.
WAY TO SCREW YOURSELF, ME.

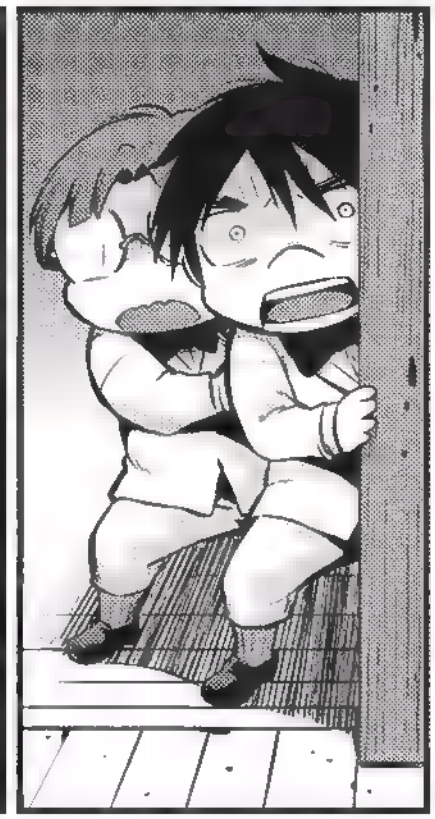
CHIK
IT'S LOCKED ...?
MOVE.
HERE.
SWF
Kreee...
ELIE
FWIFF
I request thine invitation ...
Untrodden Gate.

SHUFFLE

BA-
DUMP

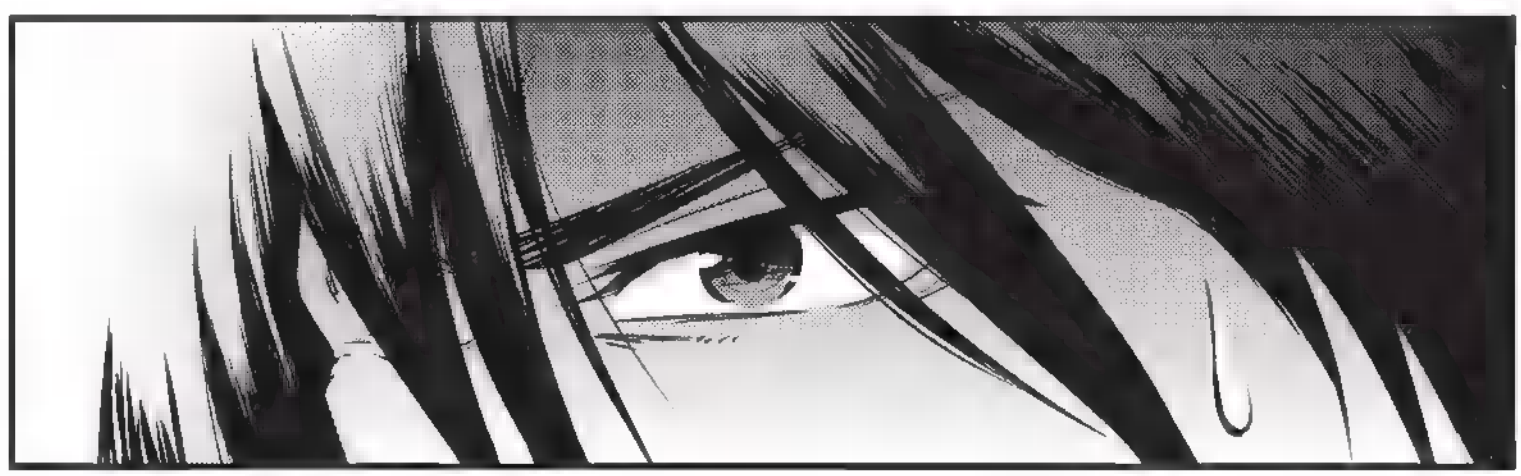
OOOOO
OOOOO

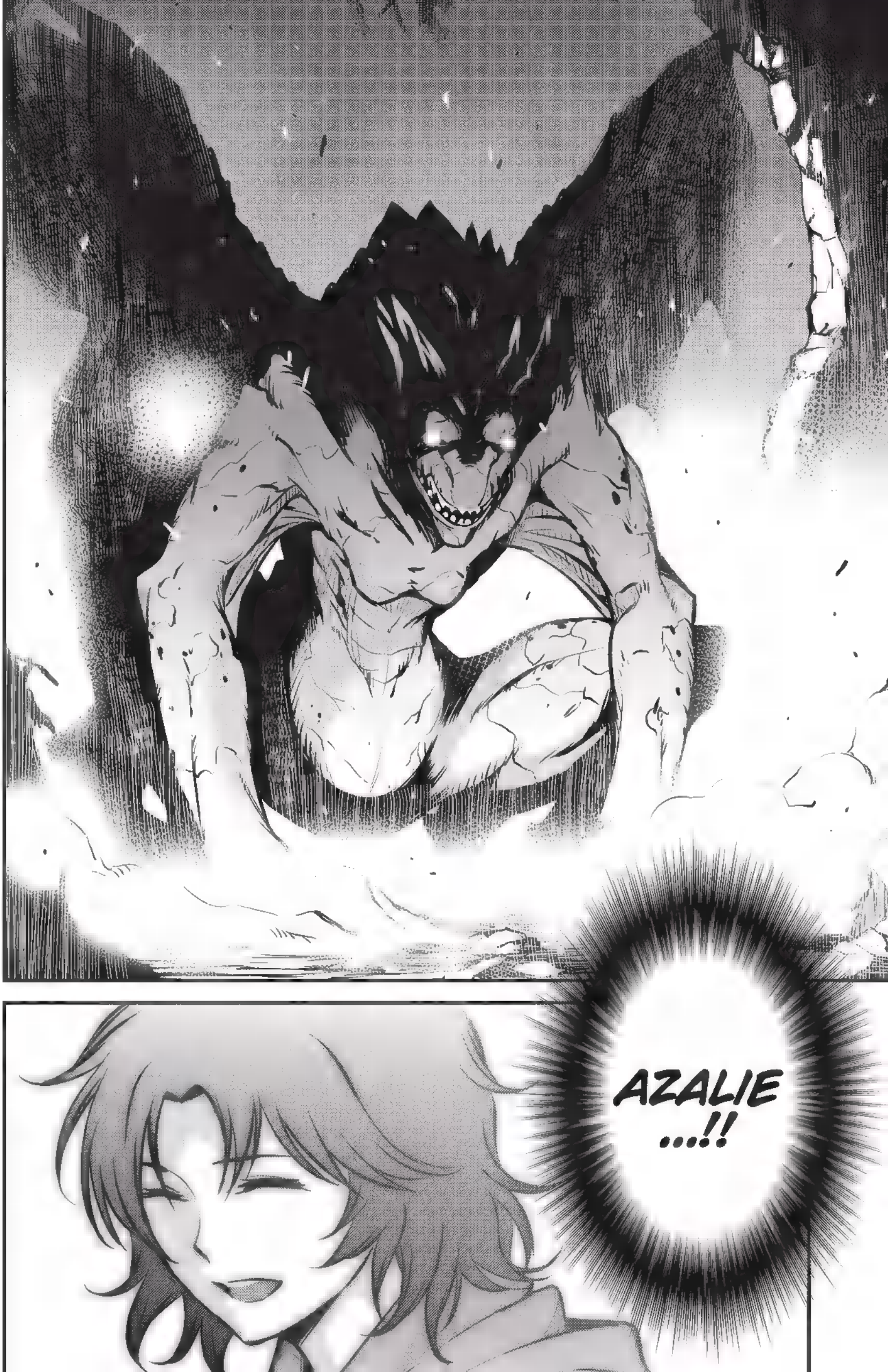
IT'S HER.



WHAT IS THAT... THING?!

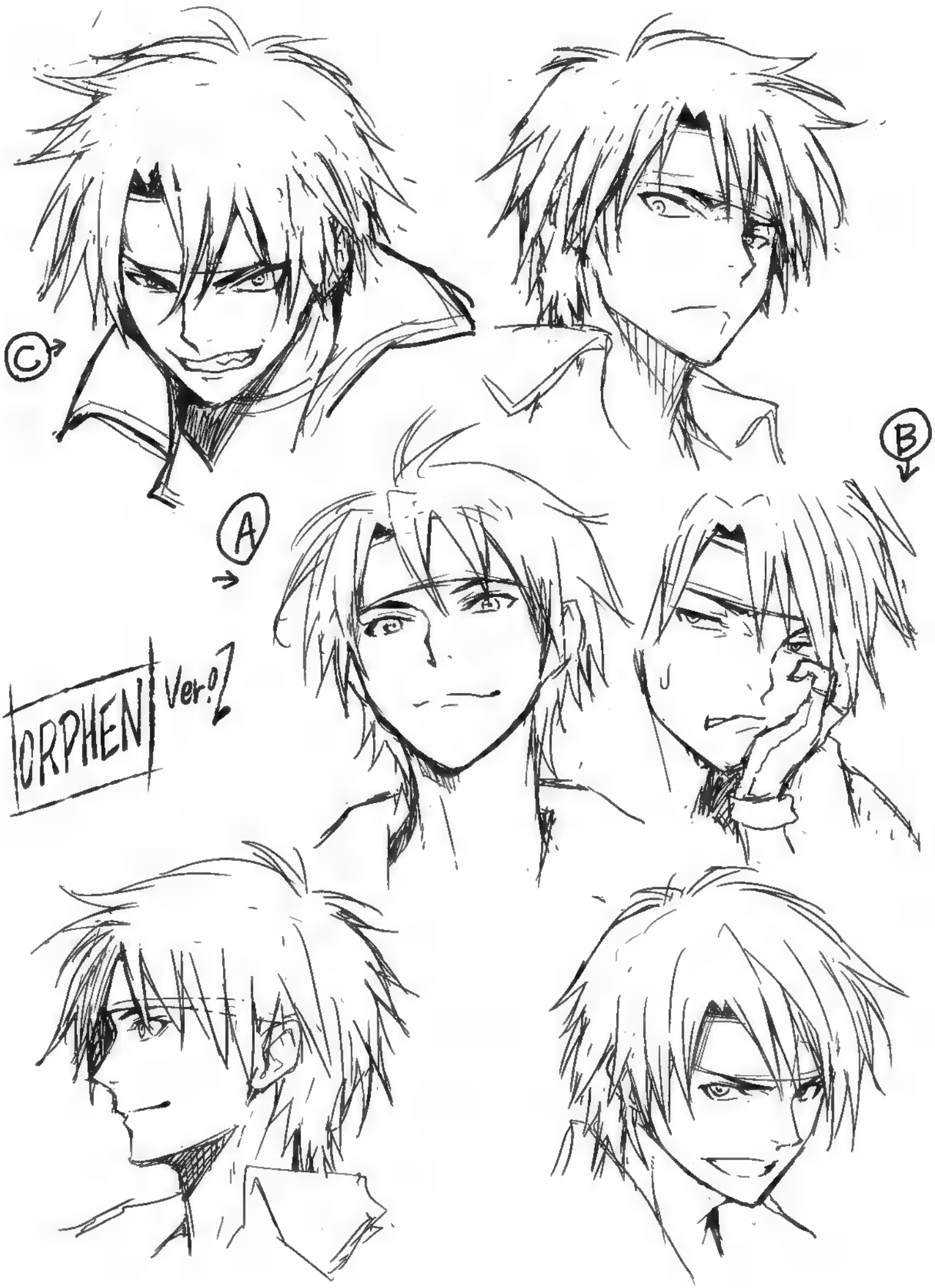
AND WILL HAUNT ME UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.
YEARS AGO, THIS TERRIFYING SIGHT WAS SEARED INTO MY BRAIN...



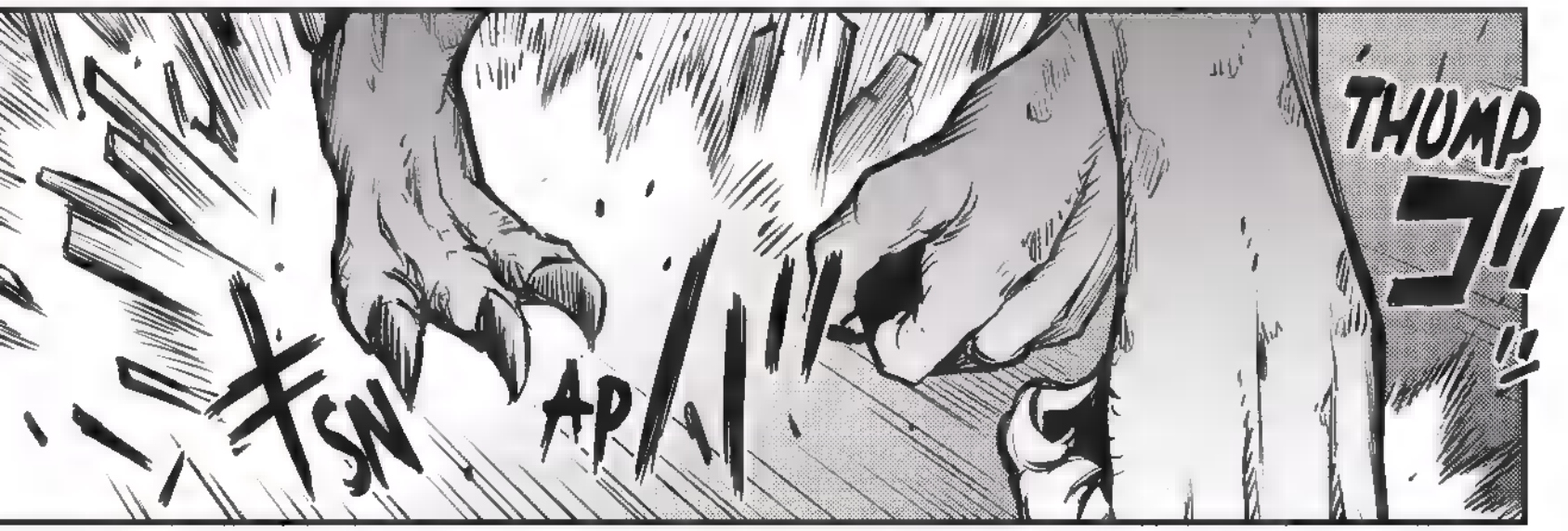

AZALIE ...!!

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

CHARACTER DESIGNS ①: ORPHEN



CHAPTER 2: CRIES FROM THE PAST ①



CHAPTER 2: CRIES FROM THE PAST ①

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

IT'S KRYLAN-CELO!

AZALIE!

TMP

DON'T YOU RECOG-NIZE ME?

IT'S ME...!

USE YOUR STUPID SORCERY ...

MORON!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

AND KILL THAT UGLY MONSTER !!

SHE'S NOT A MONSTER!

THEN WHAT ARE WE EVEN LOOKING AT?!
RAAAA!

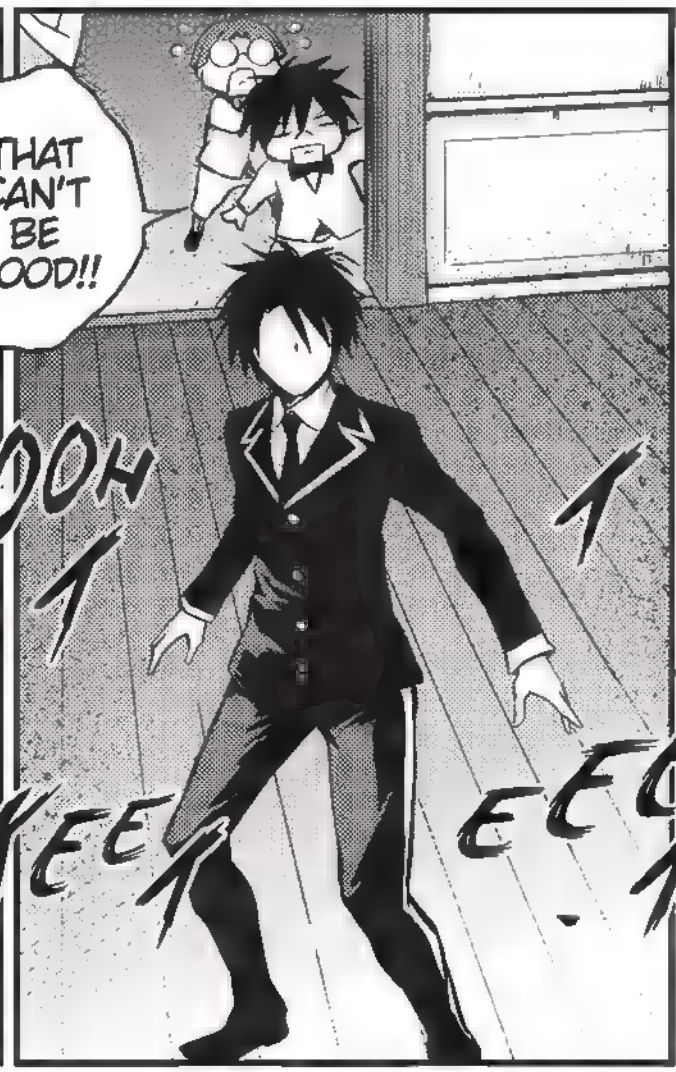
SHE'S ...

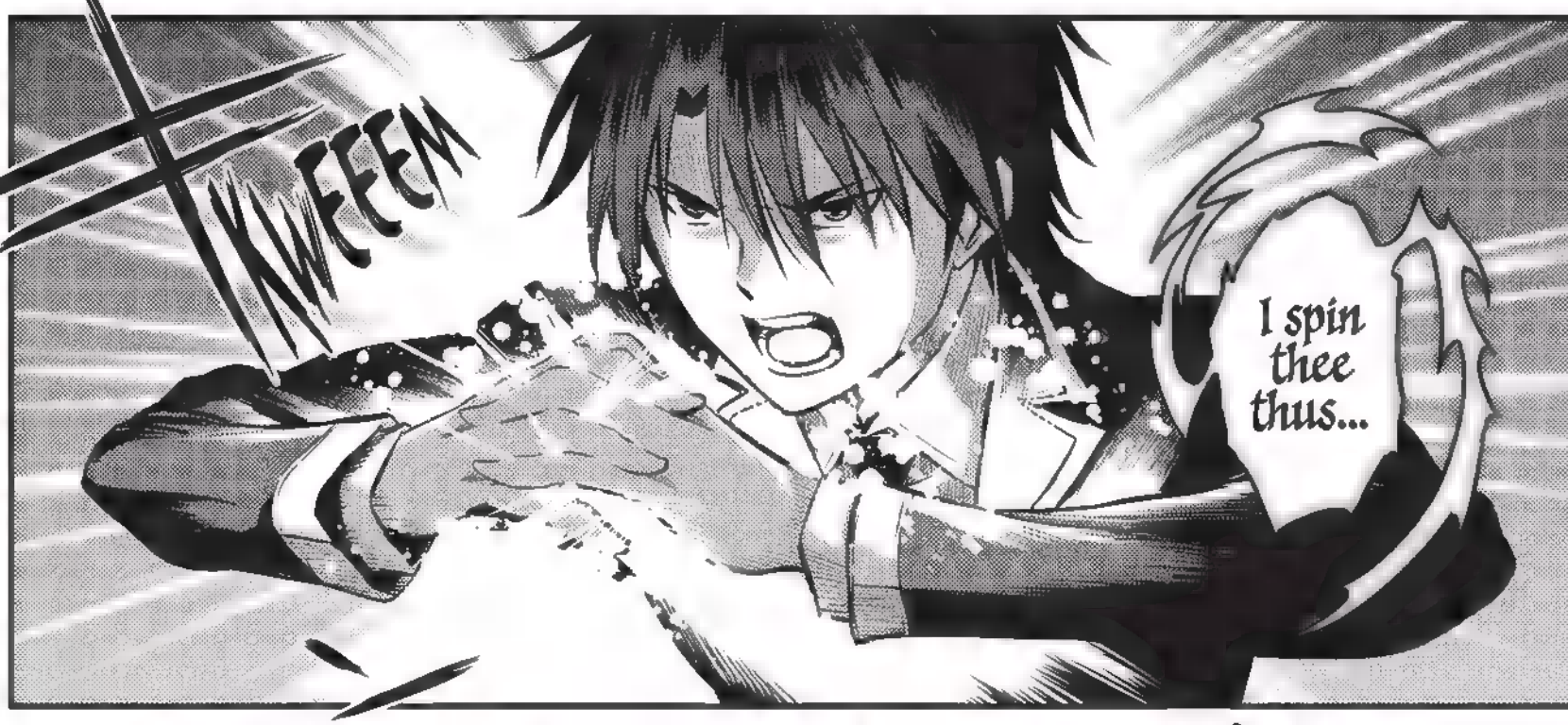
SNAP
GRIK

.....

SPLUK
SPLUK
SPLUK
SPLUK
CRACK

GWOOOH


THAT CAN'T BE GOOD!!


KWEEEM
I spin thee thus...

BZZK
BZZK
VWOO

WOOOSH
Halo Armor!
BOOSH

AGH!
BROTHER, STOP!
YEE-EEK!
ZM ZM ZM
AH!
BWOOSH
KRAKL
KRAKL

L-LET GO, DINGUS! I'M TRYING TO CONCEN-TRATE!

THAT MONSTER JUST CAST A SPELL!

HOW IS THAT FAIR?!

KRAKL KRAKL

GLEAM

AIEEE!

HOT HOT HOT!

THERE'S TOO MUCH FIRE...!

PLEASE, NOT NOW, WHEN I CAN FINALLY SEE HER!

AZALIE, WAIT!!

CRACKLE

GRACK

CRACKLE

AH!

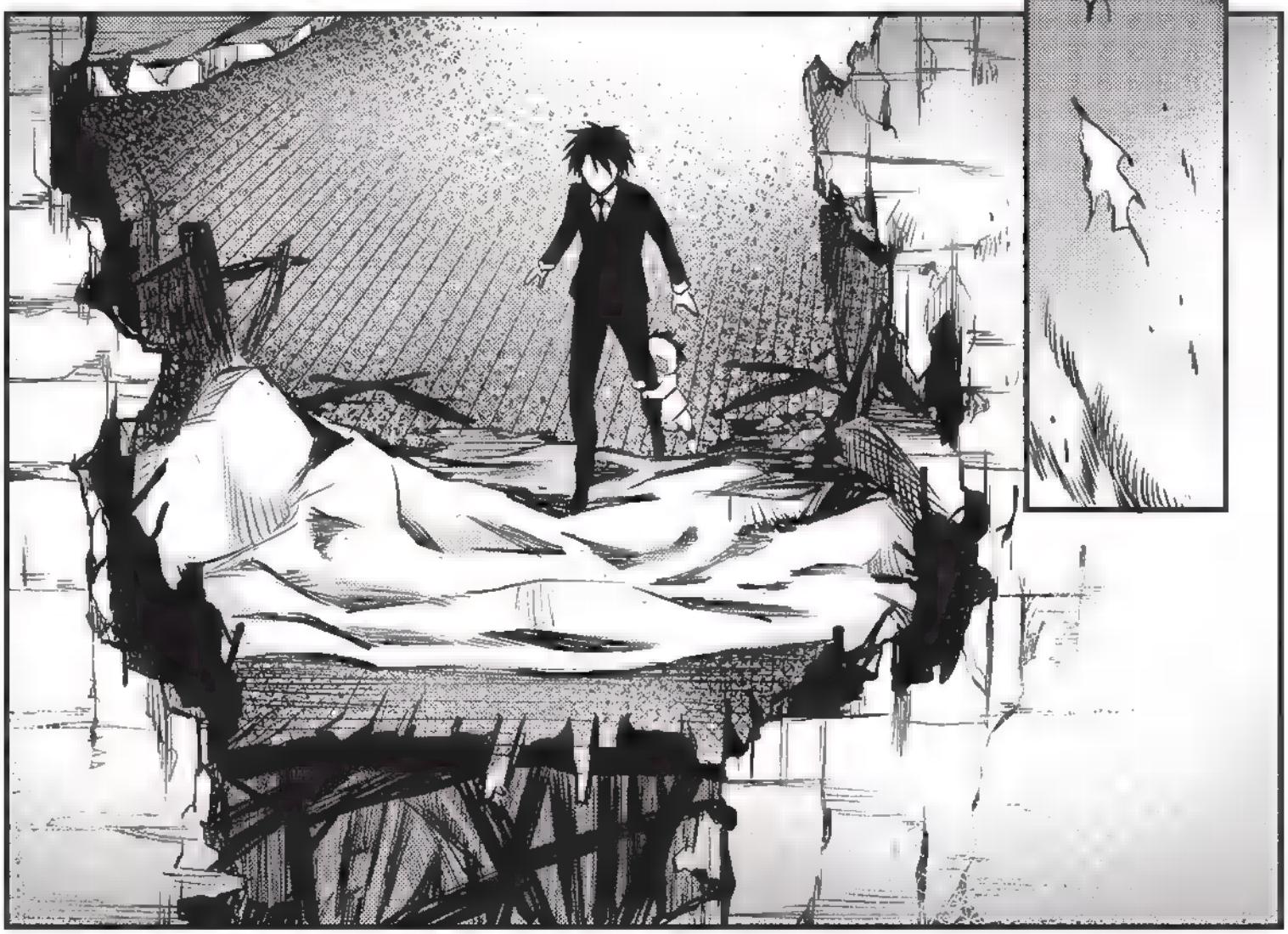
FWOOOO

FOOSH

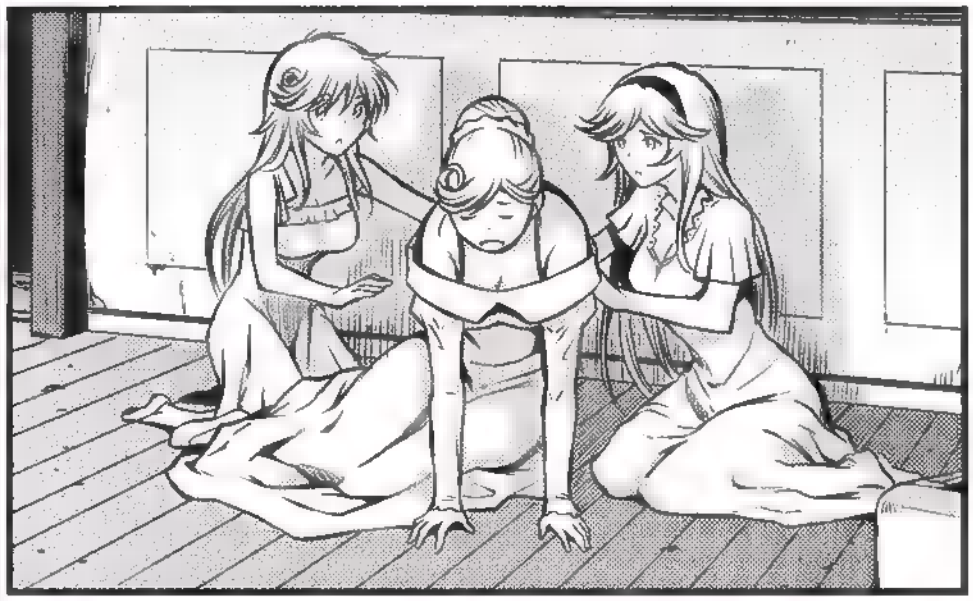
Untangle these webs: Dancing Bronco!

GRISH

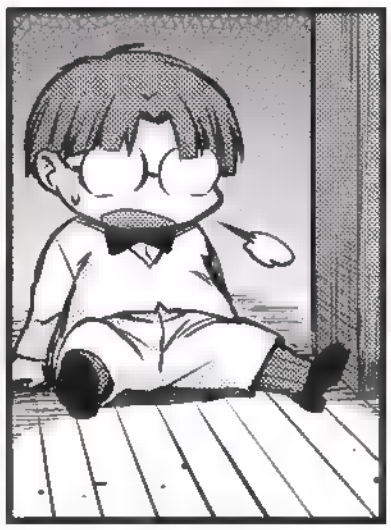
SHE'S GONNA LEAVE BEFORE I CAN SAY ANYTHING!



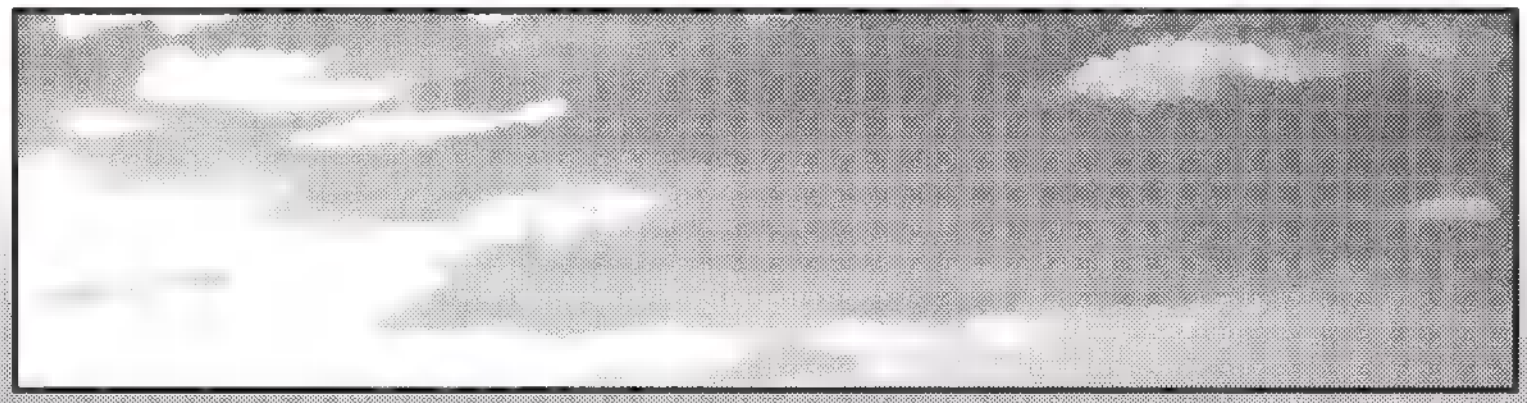
GOOD THING, RIGHT? UH...

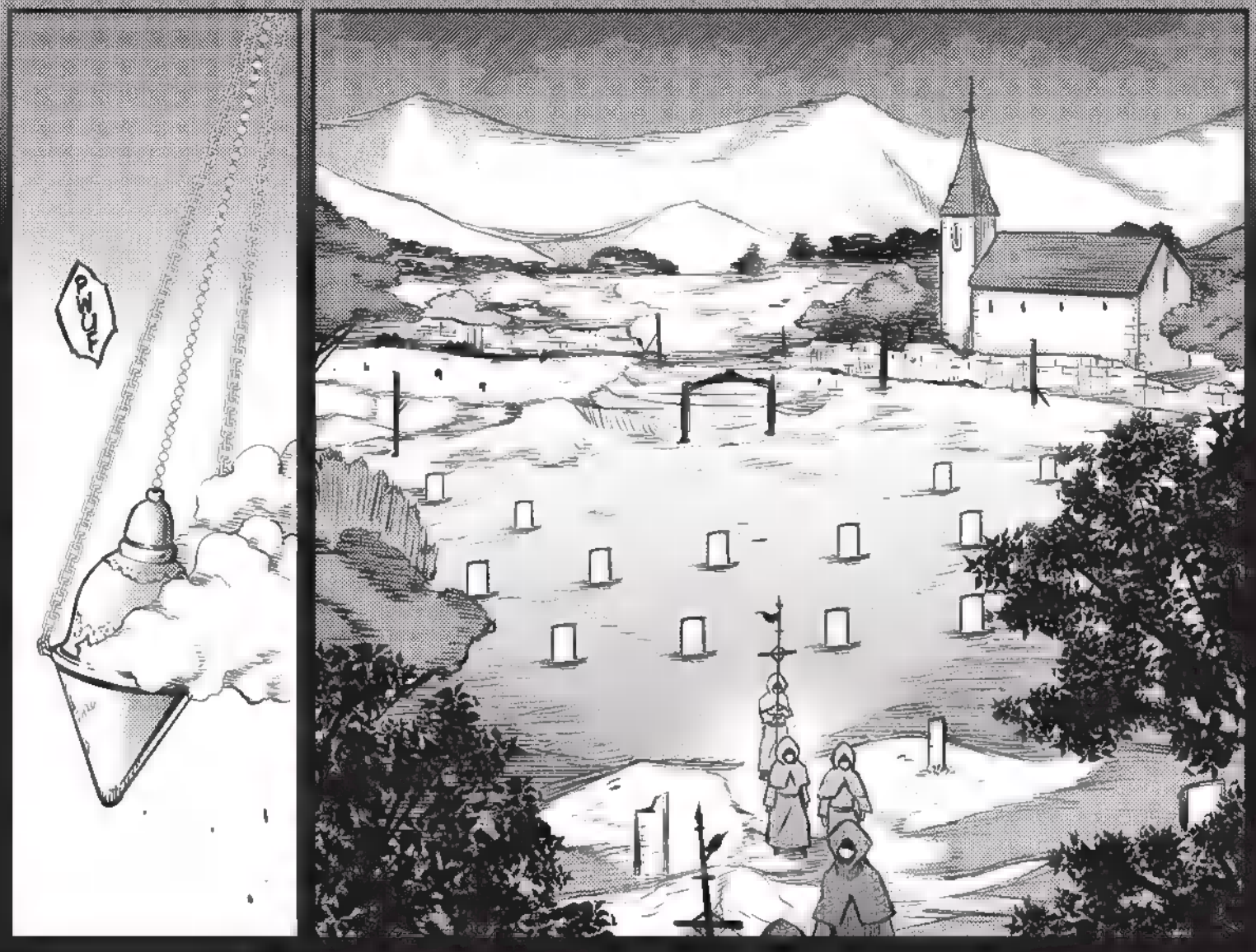


HA! I-IT GOT SCARED AND RAN!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE



HEY!
ARE YOU LISTENING, SORCER-ER?!

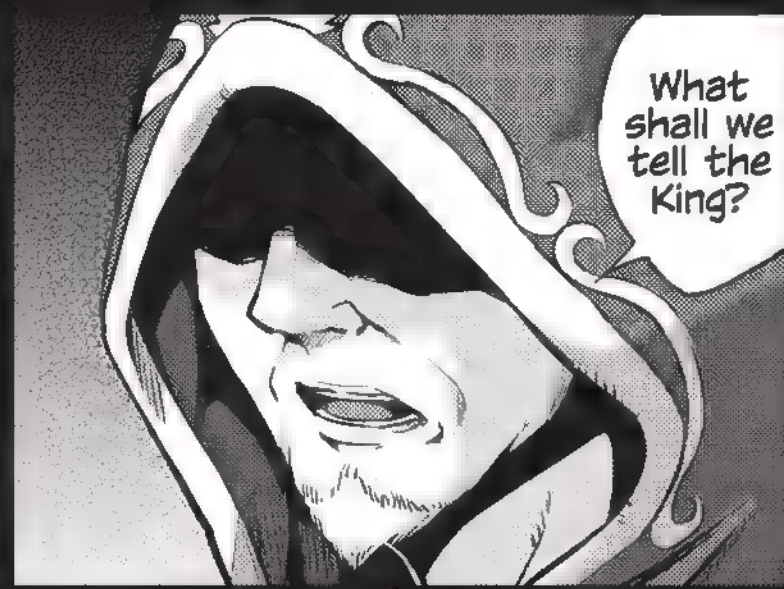


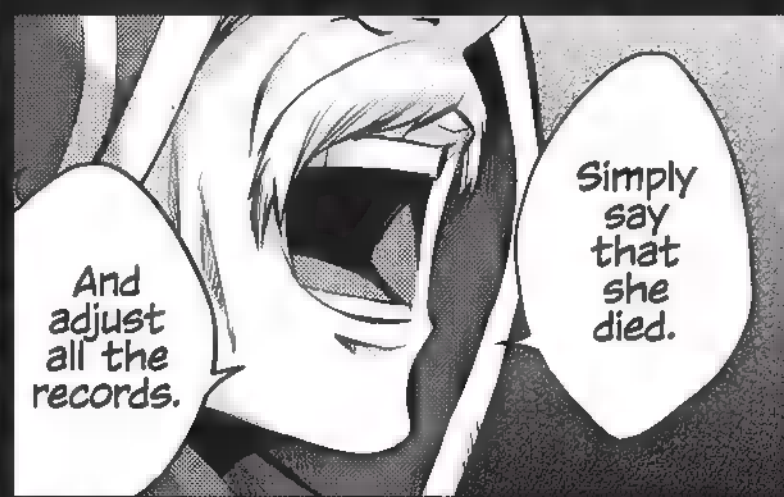

PWUF

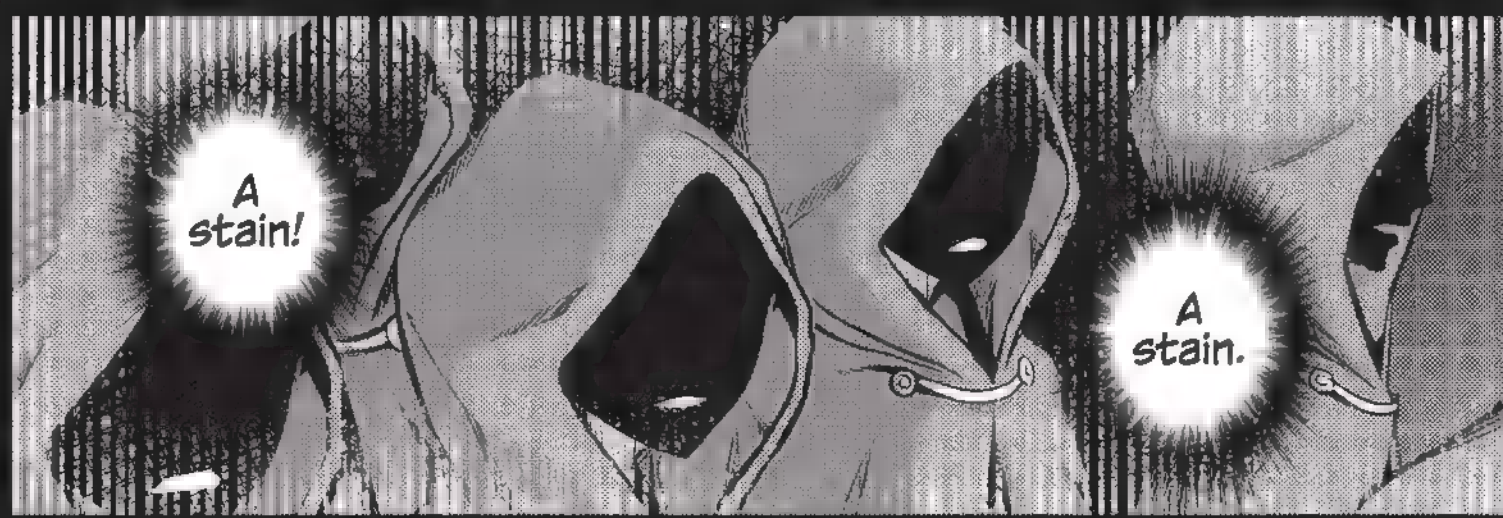
Hard to believe. *Azalie*, of all people...

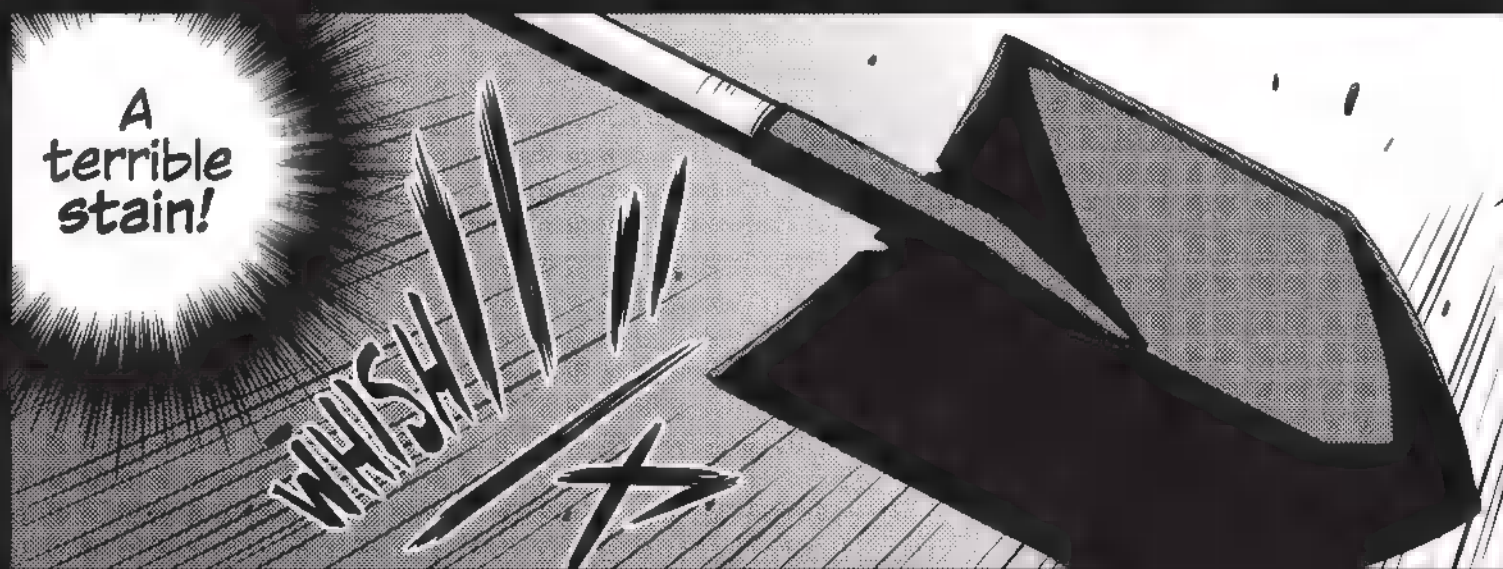
but there were so many witnesses.

What a stain on our reputa-tion!


What shall we tell the King?


Simply say that she died.
And adjust all the records.


A stain!
A stain.


A terrible stain!
WHISH

Krylan-celo, don't!

FLAP

CLACK

This isn't a funeral !!

I'll give you something to put in it!

That casket's empty.

My head? Since I'm the one respon-sible?

SIR!

Such as...?

SHFF

No.

Krylan-celo, apprentice of the Tower, dies here!

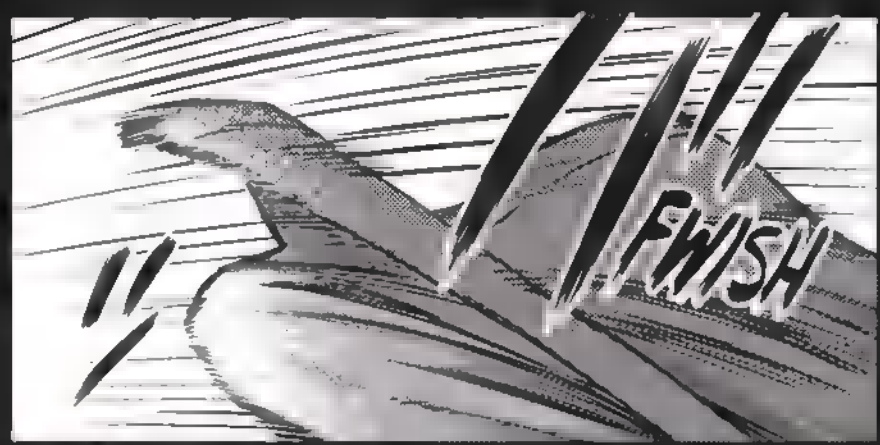
If you erase all her records, erase mine with them!

Put *me* in there!

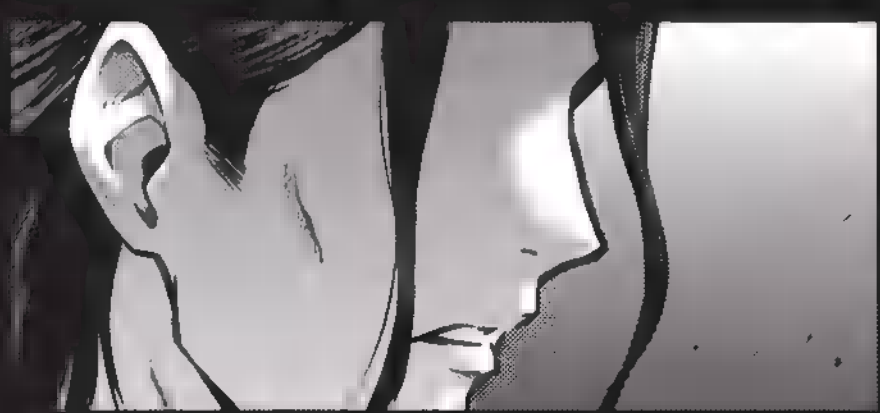
I-I'll look for her! I don't care how long it takes!

Until I find her...

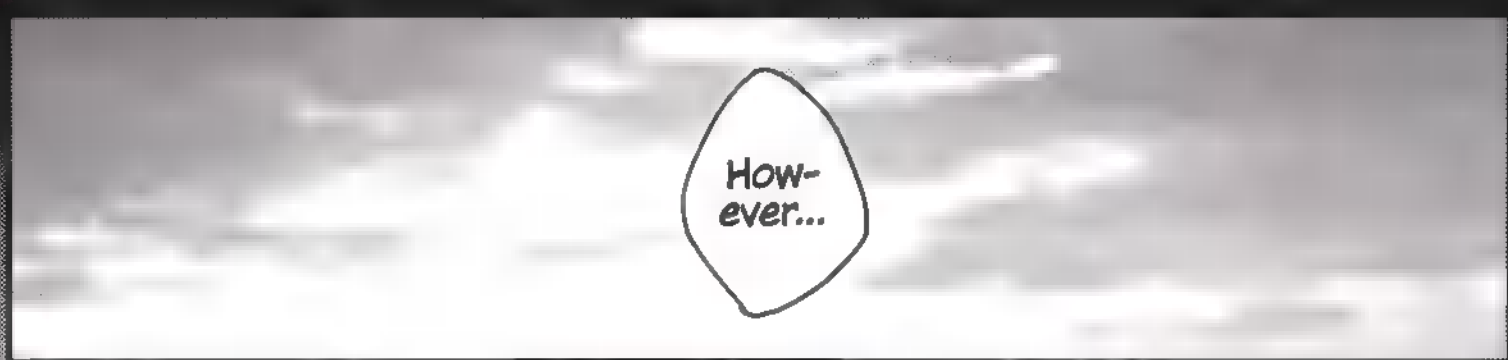
I am Orphen!


FWISH

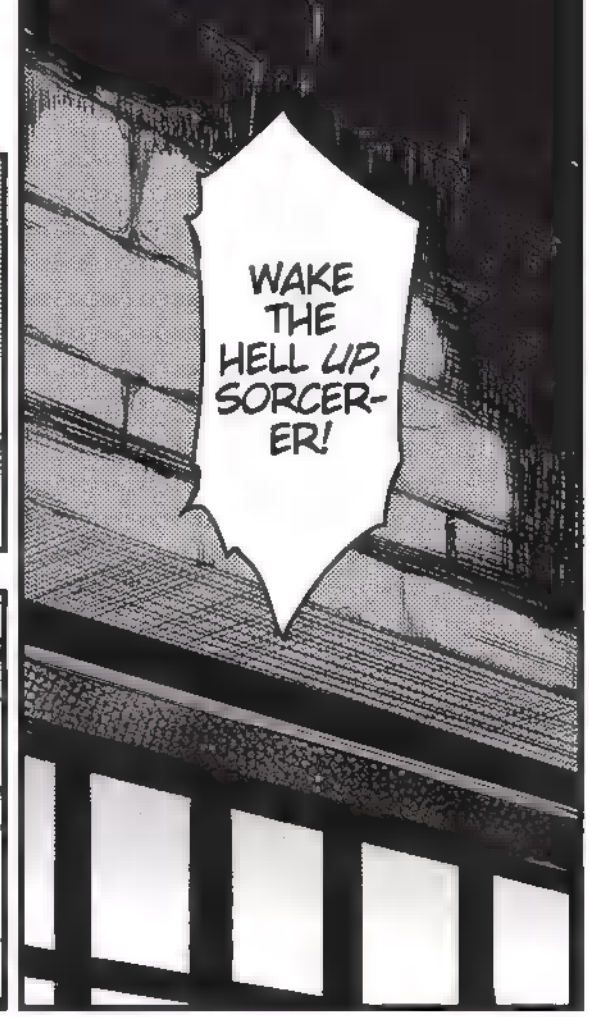
Wh...?!
You're incapable of fixing this.



Azalie was experimenting on a sword.
One that you sealed away somewhere after the accident.
I'll start by finding that cursed thing.
If she was transformed because she messed up using the magic on it, then I'll look for the right way to use its power. And maybe...

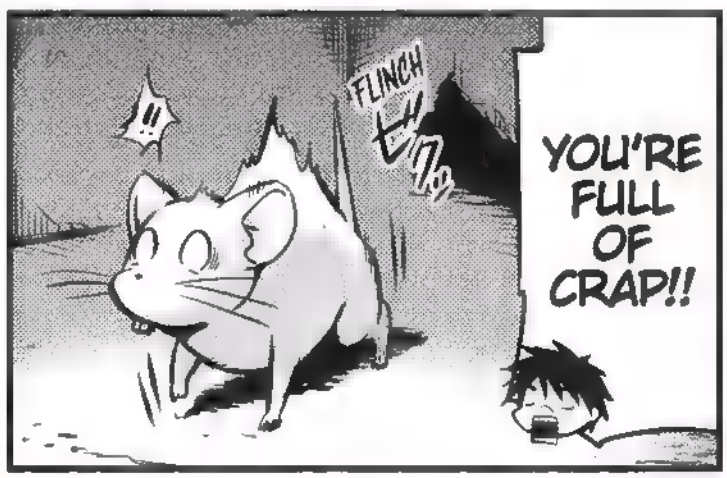

However...

STOMP


WAKE THE HELL UP, SORCER-ER!

OKAY... WHICH ONE OF YOU STOMPED ON MY FACE?!
FLINCH
.....

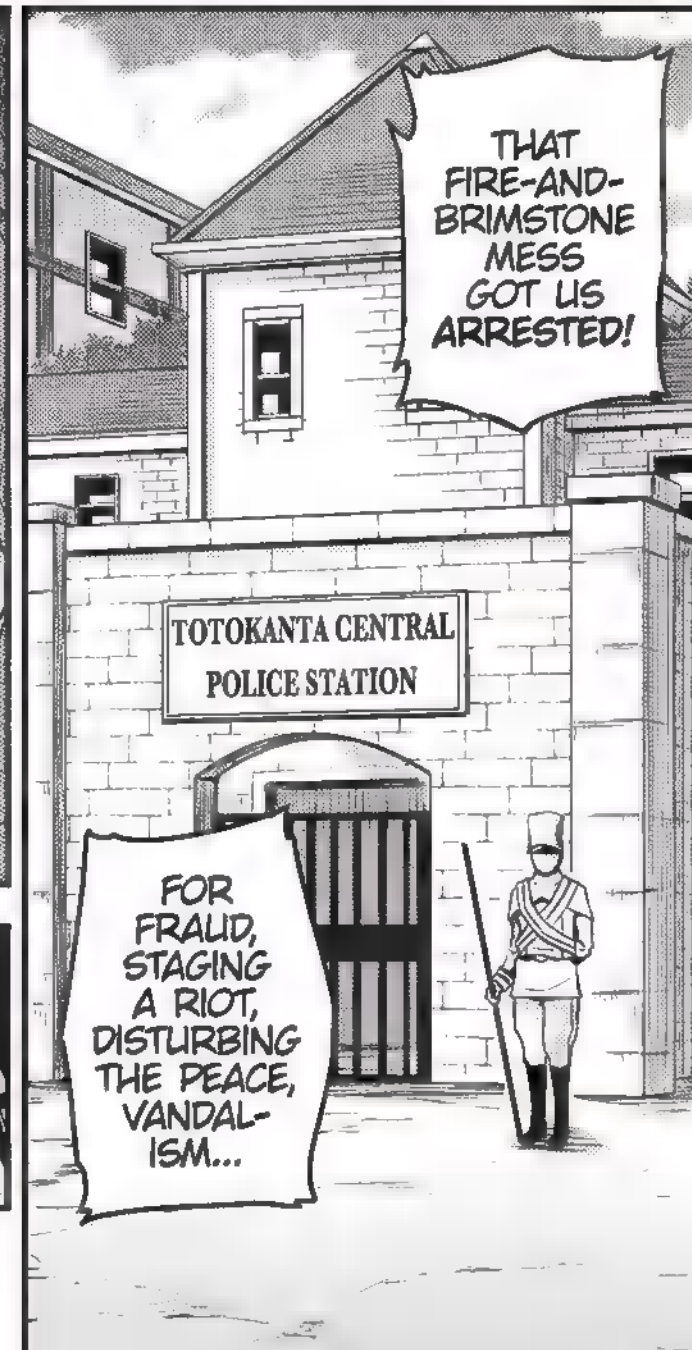
NOTHING TO EXPLAIN.


!!
FLINCH
YOU'RE FULL OF CRAP!!

LOOK.
TCH!
YOU OWE US A FRIGGIN' EXPLAN-ATION.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH-- LEMME OUTTA HERE!!
SKITTER
I'M SICK OF ROTTING IN THIS CELL. IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE DAYS!

YOU WERE TRYING TO SCAM THOSE PEOPLE.


THAT FIRE-AND-BRIMSTONE MESS GOT US ARRESTED!
TOTOKANTA CENTRAL POLICE STATION
FOR FRAUD, STAGING A RIOT, DISTURBING THE PEACE, VANDAL-ISM...

EVERYONE SAW YOU WALK UP TO THAT THING AND *TALK* TO IT!

CLUTCH

MY POINT IS, TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU AND THAT MONSTER!

SWFF

TWIST

ARGH!

URPH!

FLING

WHOP

WE'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL FOR SOME DETAILS, THOUGH?
UM...
GONNNG

AGH.

DON'T CALL HER A MON-STER!

I WAS RAISED IN THE TOWER OF FANGS.

THEY SAY THE TOWER HAS SPELLS THAT CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF AN ENTIRE WAR.

THAT TRAINS POWERFUL SORCERERS.

I KNOW YOU'VE HEARD OF IT-- THE ENTIRE KIESALHIMA CONTINENT HAS. IT'S THE PRESTIGIOUS SORCERY SCHOOL...

SLIP OF THE TONGUE.

SORRY.

AHEM.

PLEASE SHUT UP, BROTHER.

GLARE

OH, I GET IT. A PLACE LIKE THAT...

IS MAKING A BUNCH OF MON-STERS?

OF ALL THE KIDS WHO ENROLL THERE--WELL, WHO ARE *RAISED* THERE--FEWER THAN TEN PERCENT LIVE TO GRADUATE.

THE CUTTHROAT COMPETITION PITS YOU AGAINST EVERY-ONE ELSE. ALMOST NO ONE BOTHERS MAKING FRIENDS.

I WAS AN ORPHAN.

HELL, SO ARE MOST OF THE SORCERERS THERE.

SHE WAS A STUDENT FIVE YEARS OLDER THAN ME. THE "GREATEST TALENT" THE TOWER HAD EVER SEEN.

BUT AZALIE WAS... DIFFERENT.

Y-YOU'RE LITERALLY STANDING ON MY FACE!!

YIKES!

FLAIL

FLAIL

DRIPPING FANGS MAKE YOU LOOK--

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

YEAH? I COULDN'T TELL HER AGE.

HEH HEH.

STOMP

FLAIL

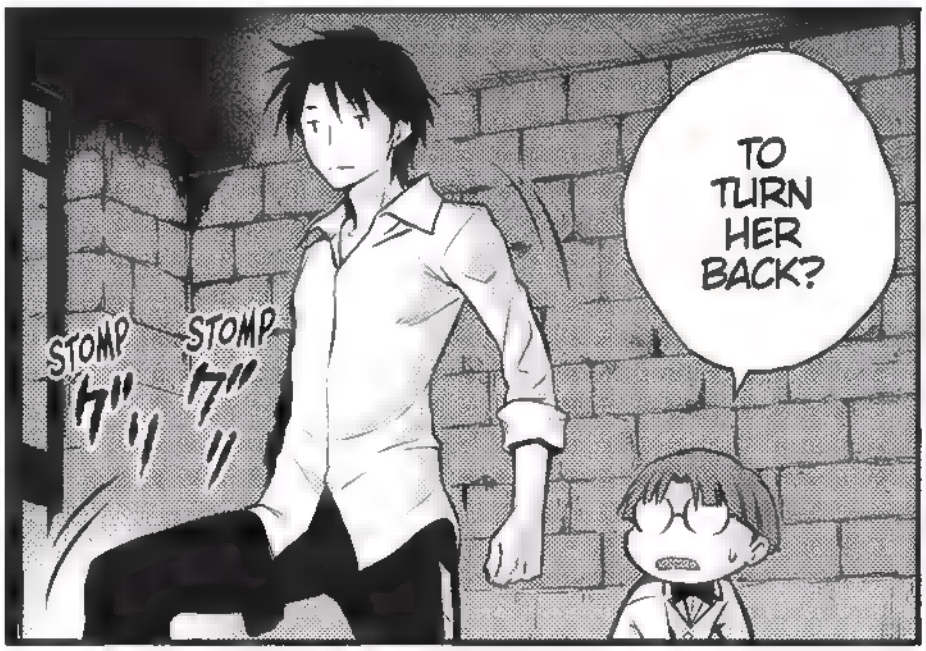
FLAIL

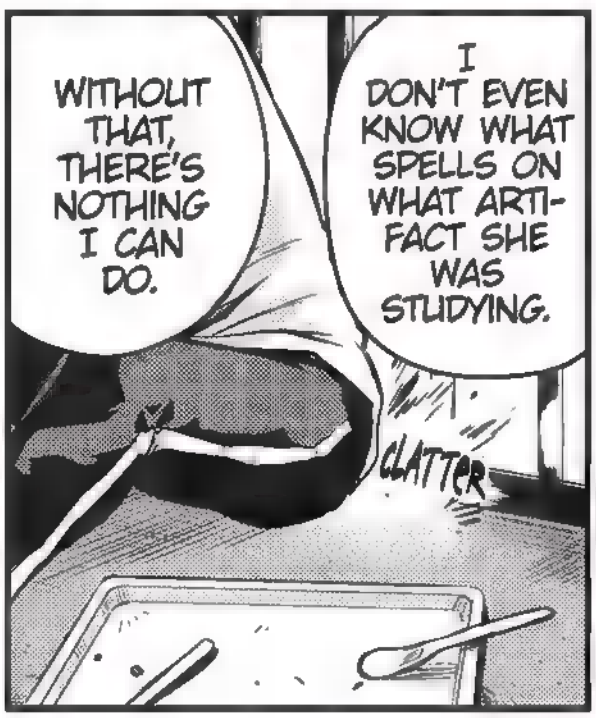
BUT SHE EXPERIMENTED WITH ANCIENT SORCERY THAT WENT REALLY, REALLY WRONG.

SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL ONCE.

I-I MEAN, THAT *LARGE AND SCALY LADY* USED TO BE HUMAN?

THAT MONST...


TO TURN HER BACK?
STOMP
STOMP


WITHOUT THAT, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SPELLS ON WHAT ARTIFACT SHE WAS STUDYING.
CLATTER

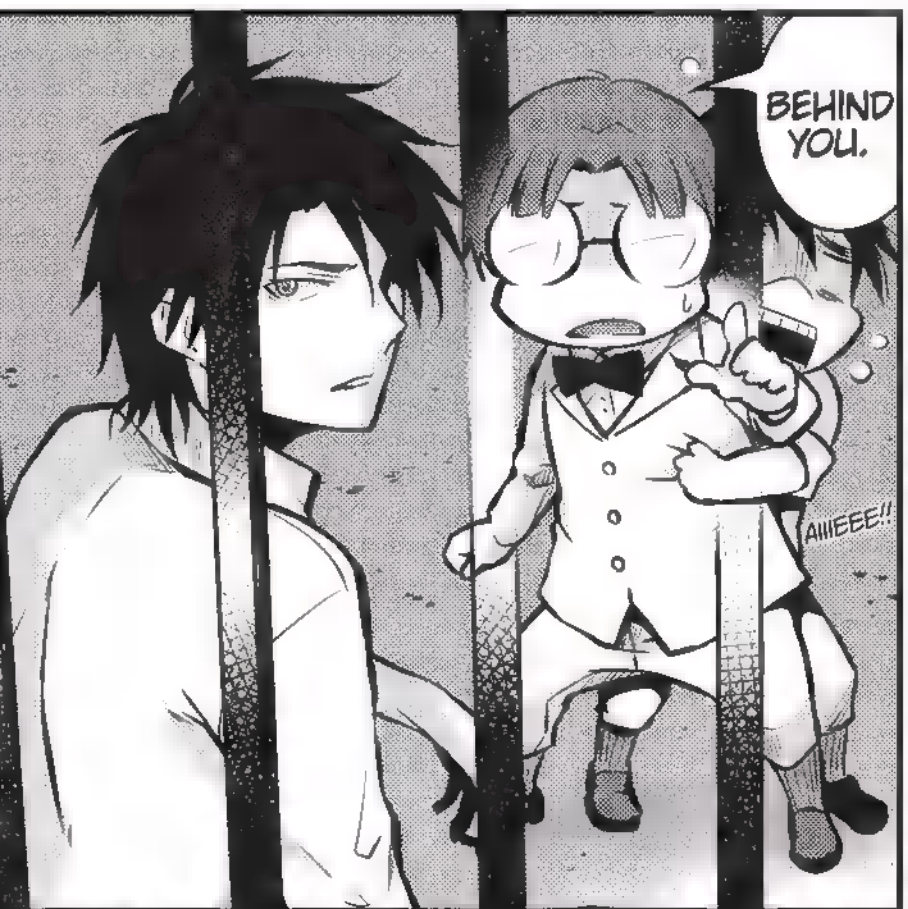
YEAH... IF IT'S POSSIBLE.
SHFF

YEAH. I SAW HER TURN.
I LEFT THE TOWER, AND I'VE BEEN HUNTING FOR HER SINCE.

OWHANG
Gmph!

RUB
RUB
R-RIGHT. AND IF IT'S GOTTA DIE, YOU WANNA BE THE ONE TO KILL IT?

"PERHAPS I CAN DEAL WITH HER."



TEE HEE!
WHOOPS!
SORRY-- I FOR-GOT TO KNOCK.

HEY! RUDE!

AND HERE I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTING YOU THREE RELEASED!

ZWIP

CAME TO EAVES-DROP MORE?

AFTER ALL...

IF OUR FAMILY DOESN'T PRESS CHARGES, THEY CAN'T KEEP YOU IN JAIL.

OH, JUST FINES?

BUT WE'LL STILL GET FINED FOR ALL THE *OTHER* CHARGES.

NOT FOR FRAUD OR VANDALISM, NO.

?!

KLATTA

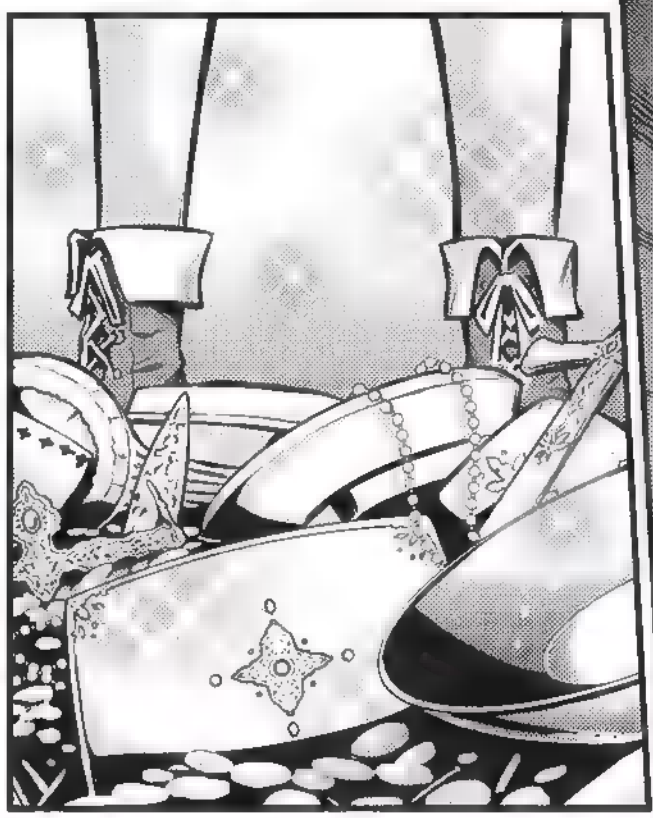
KLATTA

KLANG

KLONG

?

RUMMAGE



WILL THIS COVER IT?

HERE!

YOU SAID YOU'RE A SORCER-ER.

AND, WELL...I HAVE A REQUEST.

GLINT

SO YOU WANT A DEAL.

YOU'RE NOT OBLIGATED TO GET US OUT.

HNGH!

HMM? SURE.

BWSH

LET ME SEE THAT RING!

WAIT, HANG ON! CLAIOMH ...!

BWSH

I FOUND IT IN THE MANSION WHEN I WAS LITTLE.

I DIDN'T *STEAL* IT, SHEESH.

GRR.

IT WAS IN ONE OF OUR JEWELRY CHESTS, I THINK.

I SAW THIS IN THE TOWER OF FANGS!

HOW DO *YOU* HAVE IT NOW?

IT'S BASICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO STEAL FROM THAT PLACE.

"HEY, KRYLANCELO. CAN YOU READ THIS?"

THIS RING IS A PRODUCT OF *ANCIENT SORCERY.* IT HOLDS POWERFUL MAGIC.

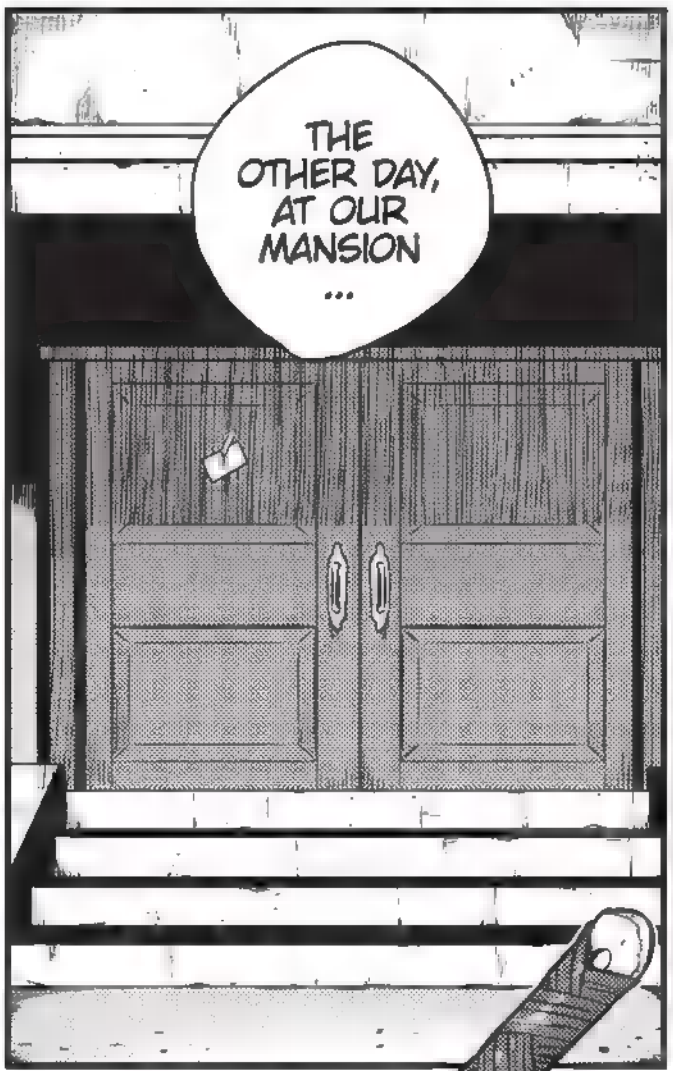
THEN AZALIE WASN'T THERE BY COINCI-DENCE.

FINE. LET'S HEAR IT.

CHECK IT OUT, DORTIN! WITH ALL THIS, WE'LL BE FREEEE!!

AND I KNOW IT CAN'T BE A COPY. MAN...

WE HAVE A TON OF OLD ANTIQUES LIKE THAT LYING AROUND AT HOME.


THE OTHER DAY, AT OUR MANSION ...

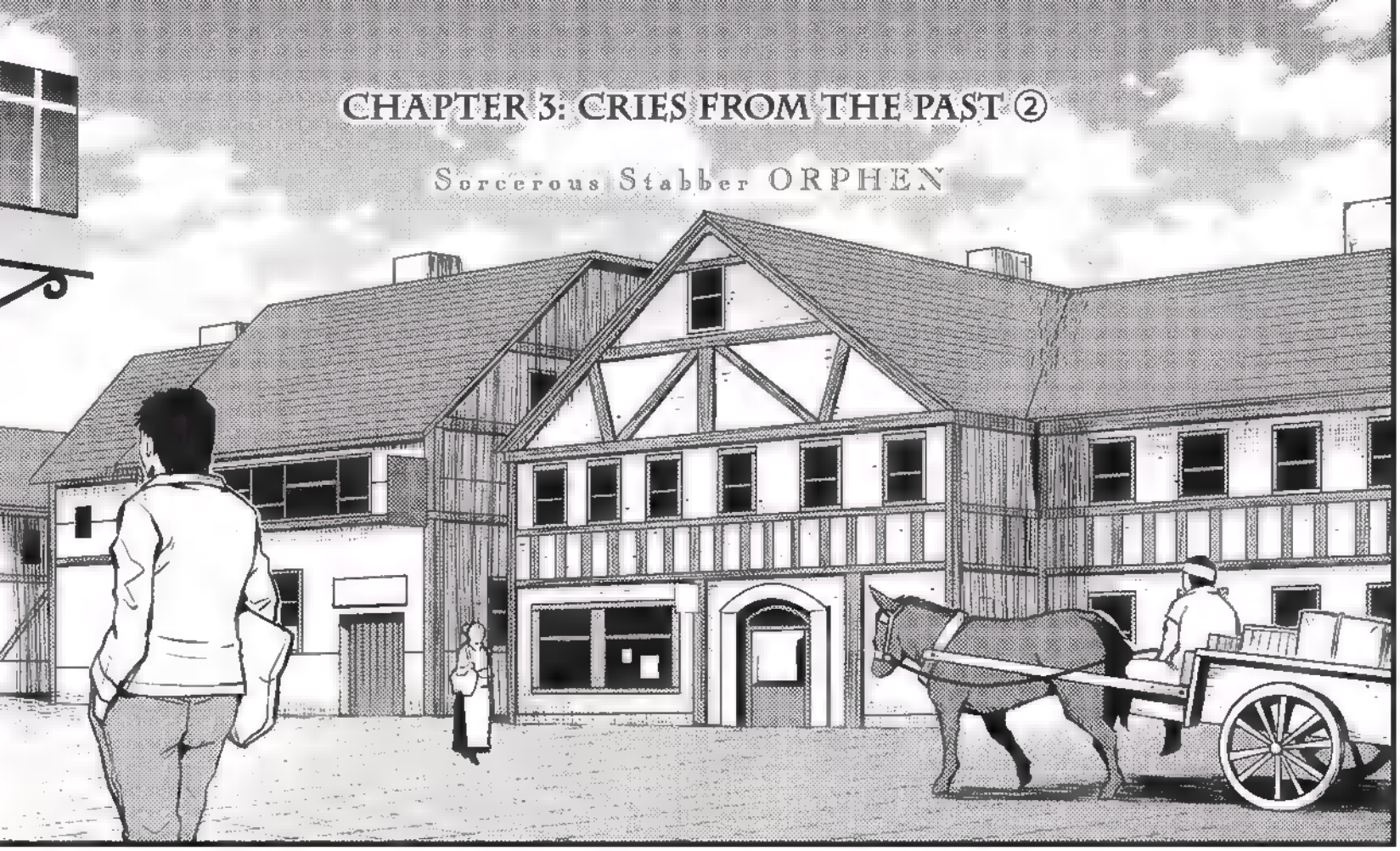
OH! RIGHT.
POFF
WHAT DO YOU NEED A SORCERER FOR?

To Everlasting
THERE WAS A THREAT STUCK TO OUR DOOR.

WANTS TO KILL MY WHOLE FAMILY.

CHAPTER 3: CRIES FROM THE PAST ②

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN



YAAAWN...
WORKIN' HARD AT ALL HOURS, HUH?
OH! GOOD MORNING, MISTER ORPHEN.
TUMP
TUMP
GOING OUT AGAIN TODAY?
I'M... HUNGRY.
MRPH.
PLEASE FEED ME.

SOUNDS LIKE *YOU'VE* BEEN HAVING A ROUGH GO.

THANKS, BAGUP.

UGH, TELL ME ABOUT IT. VOLKAN'S "WORK" PLANS TEND TO END IN LITERAL FLAMES.

HERE.

TUNK

LEAN

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A LOAN SHARK THAT JOINS HIS CLIENTS ON *JOBS*. THE GUY OWES YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST IGNORE HIM?

CLINK

HEY, NOW-- DON'T CON MY SON INTO SOMETHIN' SHADY.

REALLY ?!

YO, MAJIC-- WANNA LEARN SORCERY? I'LL TEACH YOU FOR A MONTHLY FEE.

ACTU-ALLY...

HMPH.

DOUBT MAJIC HAS ANY TALENT FOR SORCERY, THOUGH.

NOTHING SHADY ABOUT A *REAL* SORCERER TEACHING YOUR SON *REAL* SORCERY.

I STUDIED AT THE TOWER OF FANGS.

HE'S MESSIN' WITH YOU, BOY! GO CLEAN UP OUT BACK!

GRIN

PWING

BAM

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

LISTEN.

R-RIGHT ...

SPARKLE

SURE HE DOES!

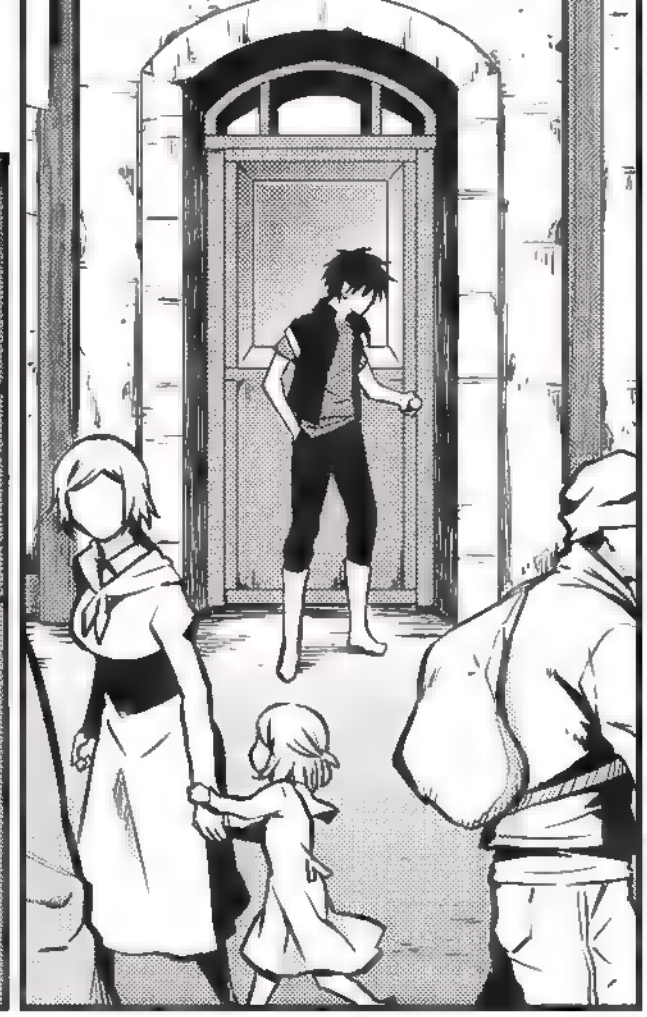
DO YOU KNOW THE BEST QUALIFICATION FOR SORCERY?
Hmn?
NO.
QUIT TEASIN' HIM LIKE THAT.
MAJIC CLINGS TO STUFF.
AND TO HEAR IT FROM YOU...

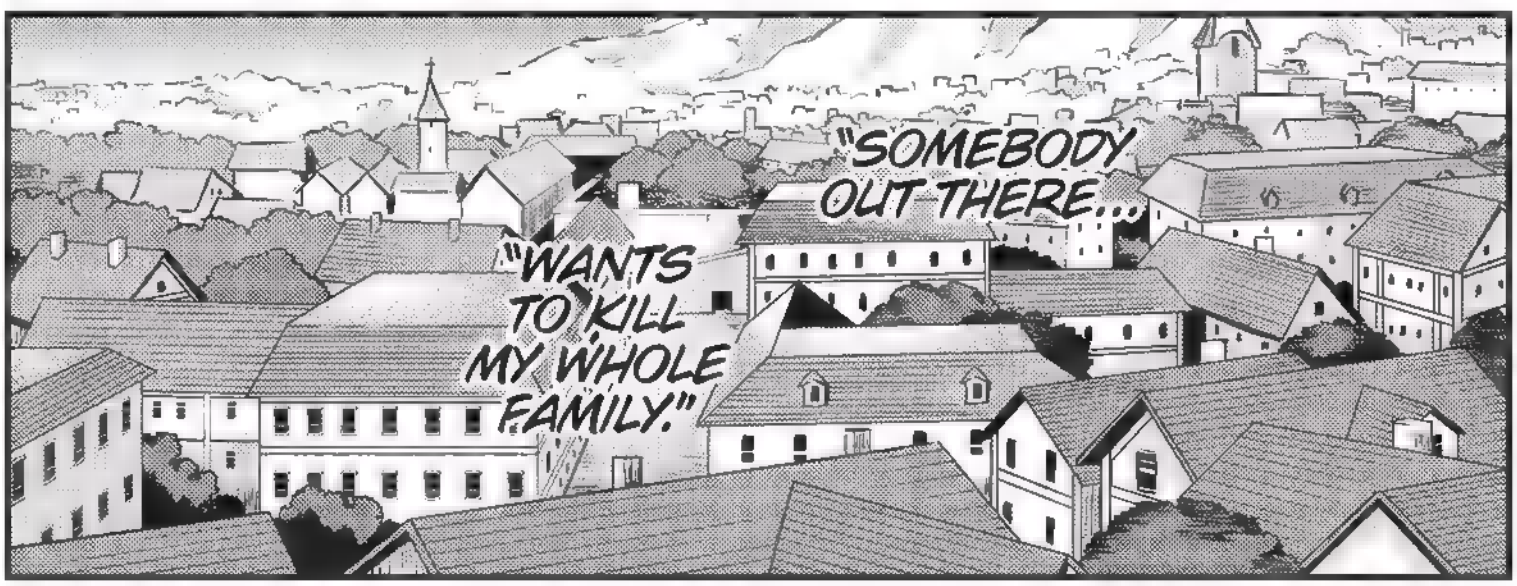
YOU MUST BE A PRETTY LOUSY ONE.
HA! IN THAT CASE...

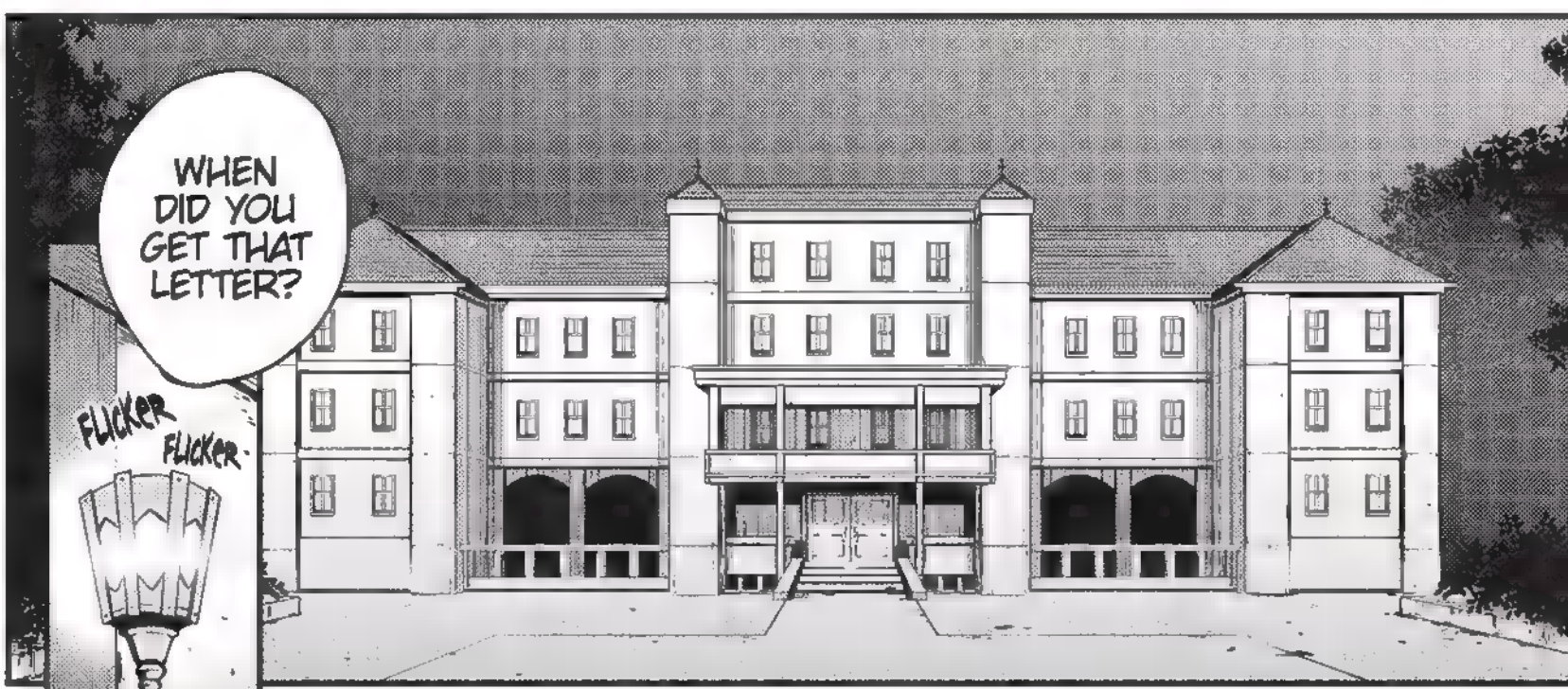
CHAK
OUCH.
THANKS FOR THAT.

PURE, INTENSE PASSION.
THAT'S WHAT IT REALLY TAKES TO BECOME A GREAT SORCERER.

"THERE WAS A THREAT STUCK TO OUR DOOR."




"SOMEBODY OUT THERE...
"WANTS TO KILL MY WHOLE FAMILY."


WHEN DID YOU GET THAT LETTER?
FLICKER
FLICKER

YOUR HOUSEHOLD POSSESSES ONE SWORD OF BALDANDERS. SURRENDER IT TO US IMMEDIATELY.

WE'RE PREPARED TO ACQUIRE IT FROM YOU BY FORCE, IF NECESSARY.

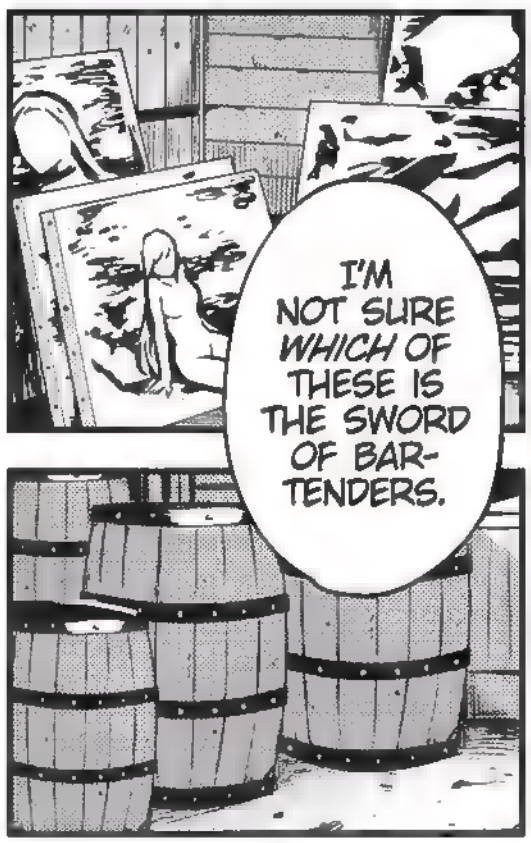
SHOULD YOU REFUSE TO SURRENDER THIS ITEM TO US...

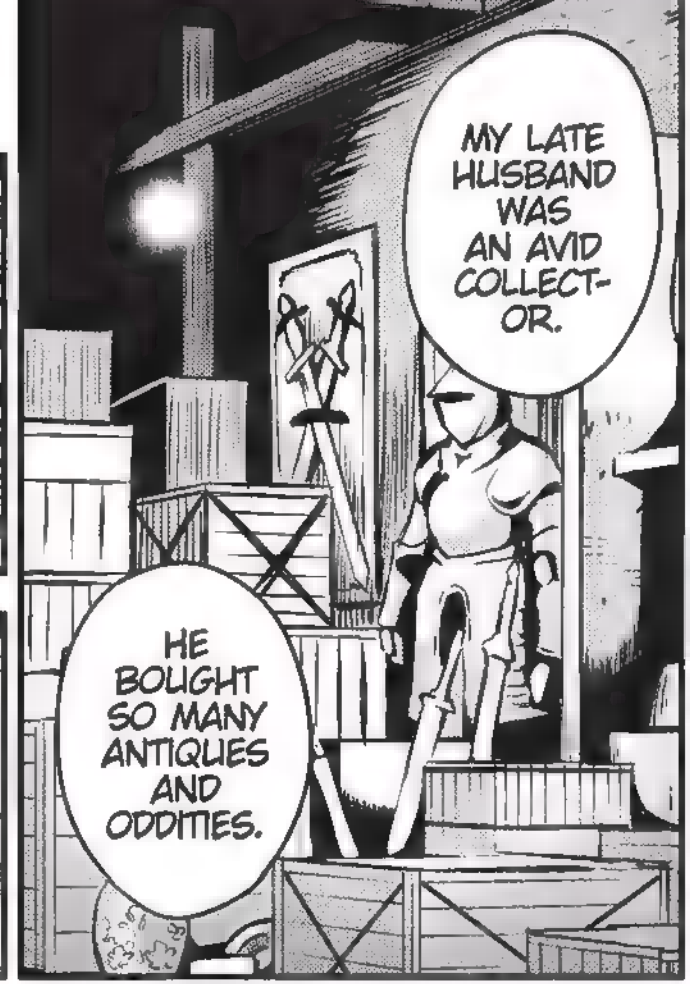
GREAT DANGER WILL BEFALL YOU...

THEN... THIS CAME THE DAY AFTER I SAW AZALIE HERE.

I'M IMPRESSED.

SWF

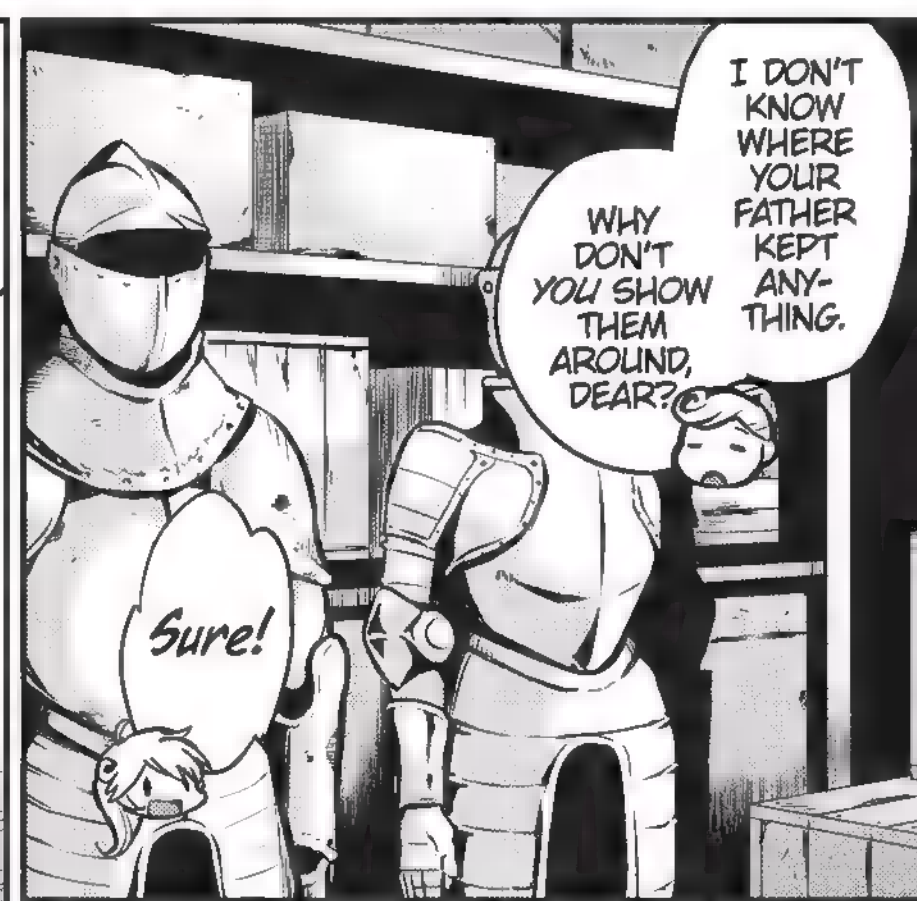

I'M NOT SURE *WHICH* OF THESE IS THE SWORD OF BAR-TENDERS.


MY LATE HUSBAND WAS AN AVID COLLECT-OR.
HE BOUGHT SO MANY ANTIQUES AND ODDITIES.

HUFF!
HUFF!

OH, WHOOPSIE.
SWORD OF BALDANDERS, MADAME.

REMEMBER THAT RING I SHOWED YOU?
TUP TUP
TUP TUP
TUP
SWF


I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR FATHER KEPT ANY-THING.
WHY DON'T *YOU* SHOW THEM AROUND, DEAR?
Sure!

SHEESH. OKAY...
WHERE'S THE SWORD?
TUG
I SNUCK IT OUT OF A JEWEL BOX IN THIS PLACE.
DON'T TELL MOTHER, THOUGH!
?!
HERE, I THINK!
DU-DUUUN
WHA? FINDING ONE SWORD IN THAT MOUNTAIN WILL TAKE FOREVER.
IS THAT A HUNDRED? A THOUSAND?
WHEN THE DEATH-THREAT PEOPLE SHOW UP, MAYBE WE CAN BRING THEM HERE AND HAVE THEM LOOK.

I THOUGHT YOU HIRED ME TO STOP THEM.

NOT PLAY TOUR GUIDE. FOR THIEVES.

OH, RIGHT! RIGHT.

CLINK

CLANK

WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS?!

N-NOTHIN'! IT WAS DORTIN'S IDEA.

EXCUSE ME, *WHAT* ARE YOU TWO DOING?!

IF THESE THIEVES HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO AZALIE...

IT'S MY ONLY LEAD. I WON'T LET THEM SLIP AWAY.

BICKER

YOU STUFFED YOUR OWN POCKETS, BROTHER!

BICKER

I DID NOT!!

WOW. YOU FILLED MY POCKETS, DORTIN?

YOU'RE *SUCH* A SISSY.

DWARFS HAVE BAD NIGHT VISION.

BUT WE'RE DWARFS...

WHATEVER. KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED.

LOOK FOR ANYONE SUSPICIOUS.

I'LL STRING UP ANYONE WE CATCH!

IF YOU HADN'T FREAKED OUT, OUR MONEY TROUBLES WOULD BE OVER.

BROTHER... DON'T STEAL FROM THESE PEOPLE.

FINE...

MY BRO-THER'S SO SELFISH. AND **MEAN.**

BONK

OW!

HE PRACTI-CALLY KIDNAPPED ME.

WHEN THE FAMILY DISOWNED HIM AND HE GOT KICKED OUT OF OUR VILLAGE...

BRO-THER?
DON'T SUDDENLY STOP LIKE THAT, PLEASE.
SHH!
QUIET!
FLAP FLAP
THMM
THMMMM
MOOOOOOOOOOO!
?!
W-WATCH OUT, EVERY-ONE! INTRU-DER--
BWSH
PUNT
ERP!
DON'T TELL THE SORCERER, PUS-BRAIN!
HE'LL STEAL ALL THE CREDIT!
FSHHH

SHWF

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I PAY THAT ROTTEN SORCERER ONE COPPER AT THIS POINT!

BROTHER, JUST PAY YOUR DEBTS...

YEAH, NEW PLAN! I MAKE THAT PRICK CRY UNCLE, THEN--

BWA HA HA!

IF WE TAKE DOWN THE THIEVES, *I'LL* GET ALL THE GLORY!

THE GRATEFUL FAMILY WILL DROWN ME IN CASH-- ENOUGH TO HIRE AN ASSASSIN TO KILL HIM!

カリ SHAKE ク

NOOO, MY MASTER PLAN! DORTIN, THIS IS YOUR FAULT!

カリ SHAKE ク

NOT WHAT I HEARD, DICK-BAG!

カリ SHAKE ク

HOW?

SWEAT SWEAT

T-TO SWIFTLY AND FULLY REPAY MY DEBT TO YOU...?

FWEE FWOO

HURK

WHO'S THERE ?!

WHA..?

SHING

I AM THE ASSASSIN OF THE SHADOWS!

MY IDENTITY OBSCURED BY THE DAY...

MWUAH HA HA HA HA HA!

BLARG!

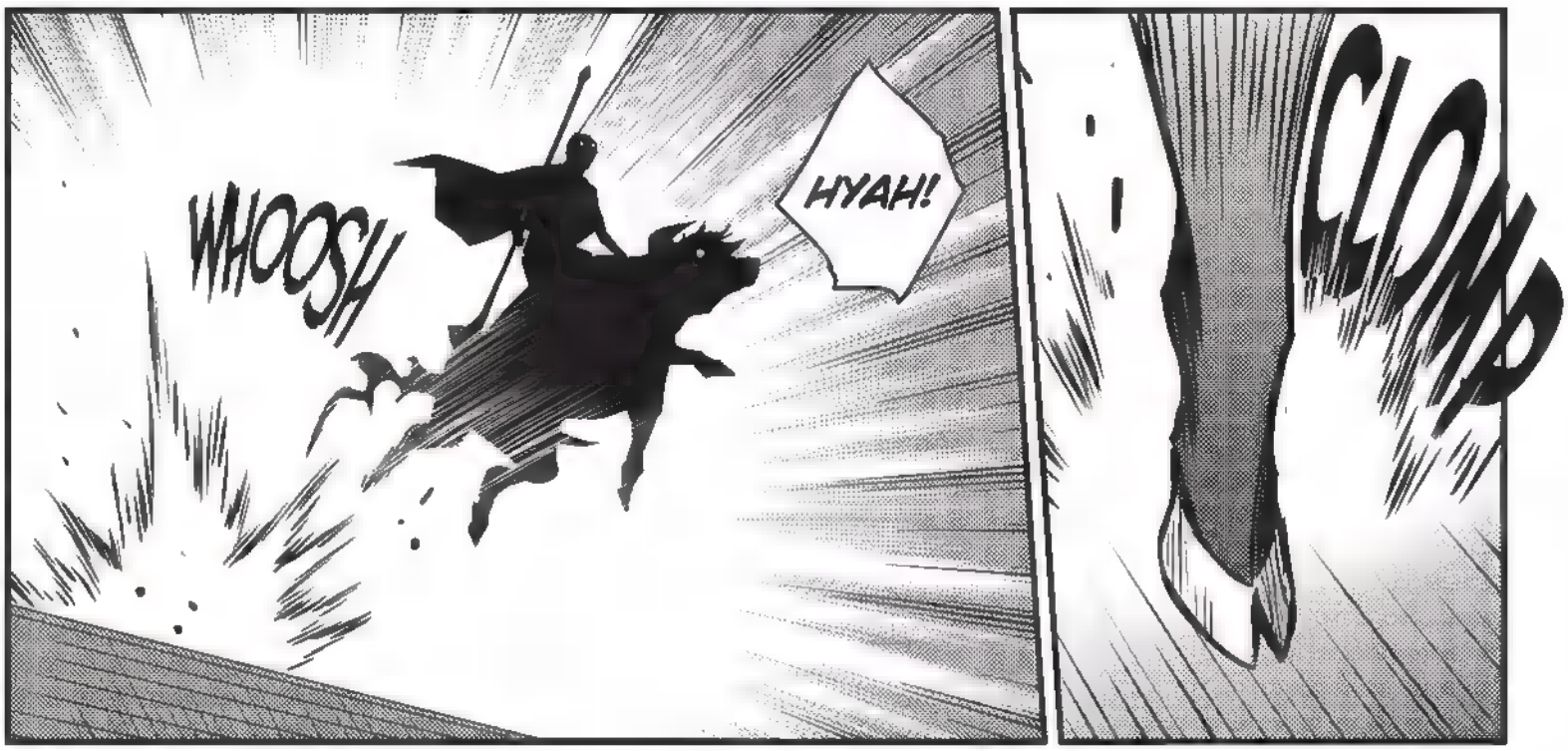
?!

YOU DESERVED THAT.

THE INCAR-NATION OF DREAD!

THE NOBLE OF THE NIGHT, NIGHTMARE BLOOD! MY NAME IS... *BLACK TIGER!!*

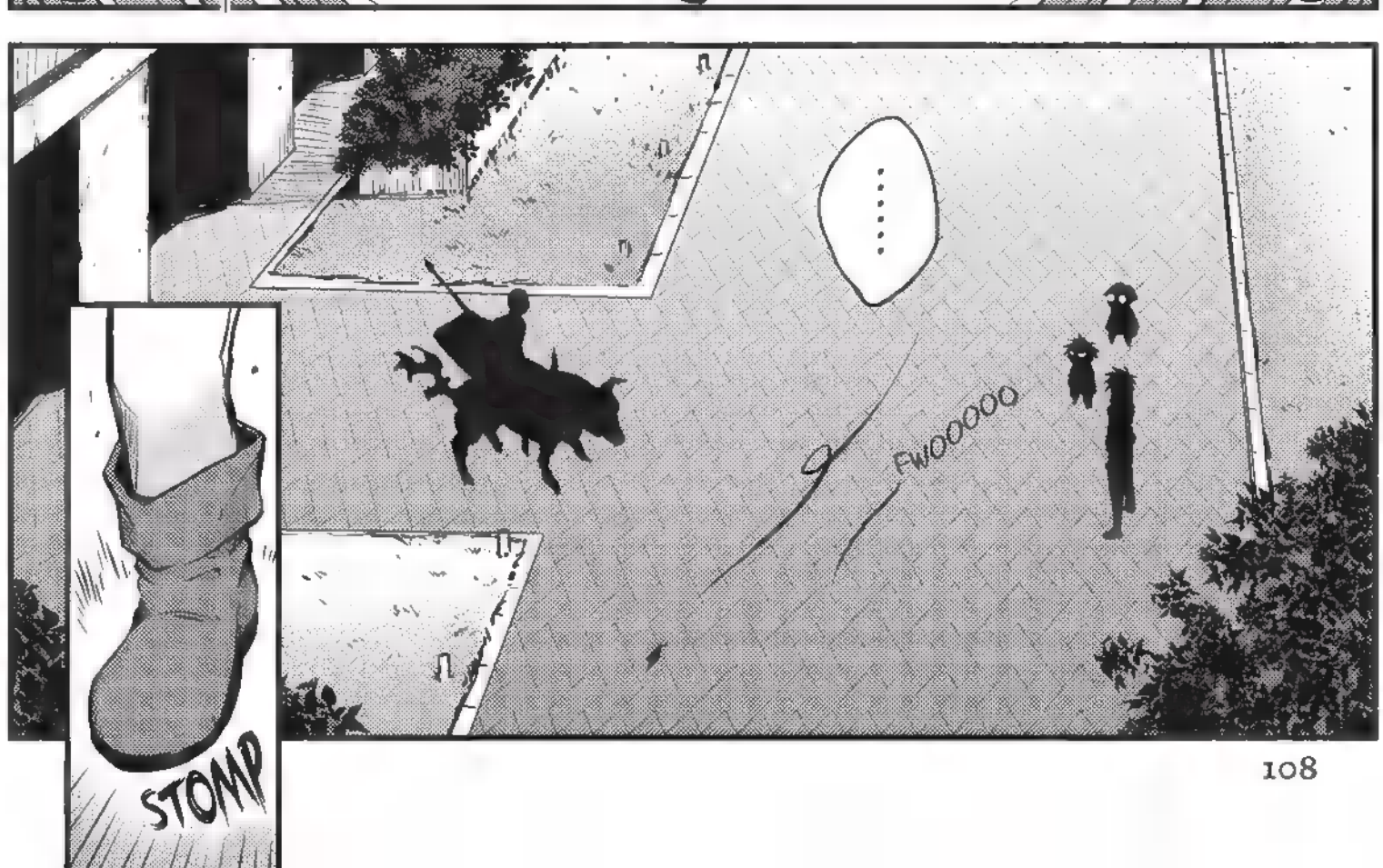
SNORT



BLACK TIGER? THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR ...
YOU KNOW THE GUY?

WHOOM

BA
I THINK THAT'S THE NAME...OF A KIND OF SHRIMP.
BAM


.....
FWOOOOO
STOMP

I'M GONNA COOK YOU!
I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE A JERK-HOLE PERV WITH THE TACKIEST TASTE ON THE CONTINENT!
STOMP
STOMP

WHO ARE YOU CALLING SHRIMP-MAN?!
HOLD IT, SHRIMP-MAN!
STOMP
STOMP

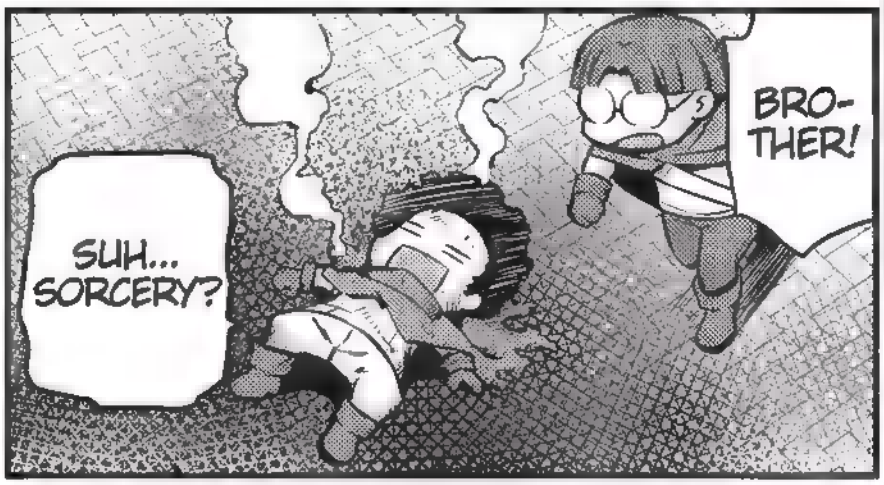
YOU MOUTHY DWARF...!

VOLKAN!
WHAT ?!

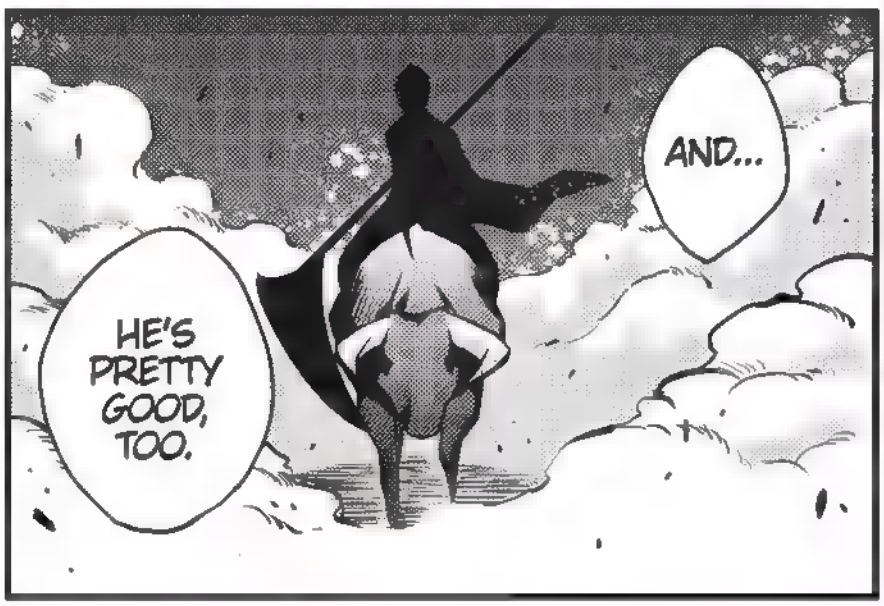
?!

WHISH!

CRACKLE
Come, Light-ning!


BRO-THER!
SUH... SORCERY?

YEAH.
HERE WE GO.


AND...
HE'S PRETTY GOOD, TOO.

KRA-
KOOM
GWAGH!

HE MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT AZALIE. I NEED TO CAPTURE HIM.
I'D LIKE TO DEAL WITH THIS WITHOUT SHOWING HIM I'M A SORCER-ER.

HANG ON. HE ALREADY KNOWS WHAT I AM?

THAT... CHANGES THINGS.

SHING

?!

DON'T MOVE, SORCER-ER!

DRAG DRAG

HRM. I GUESS I COULD TRY...

TWITCH

NOW I DON'T HAVE TO GO EASY ON YOU.

SMIRK

Sword of Light!

I release thee...

CHOOM

HUH?

HIS SCYTHE CAN REFLECT SORCERY, EH?

BWSH

THEN I'LL TRY A FEW IN A ROW!

AGH! W-WAIT ...!

PTANG

CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

Come, Wall!

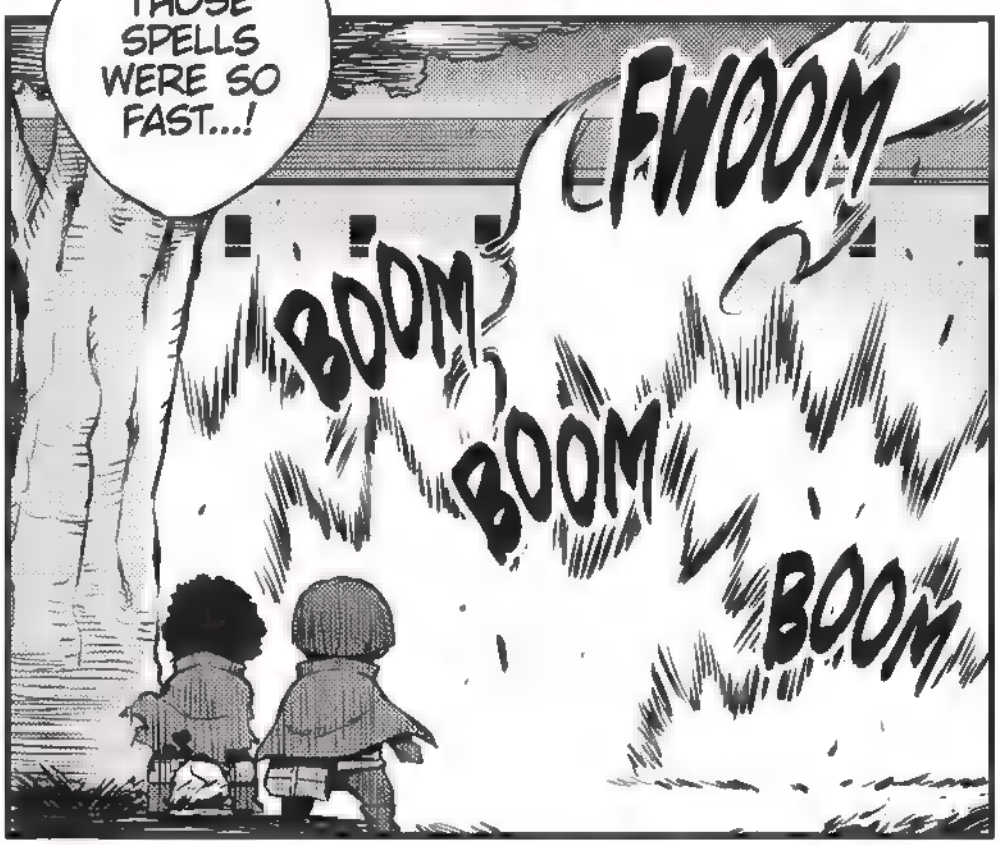
SWAK

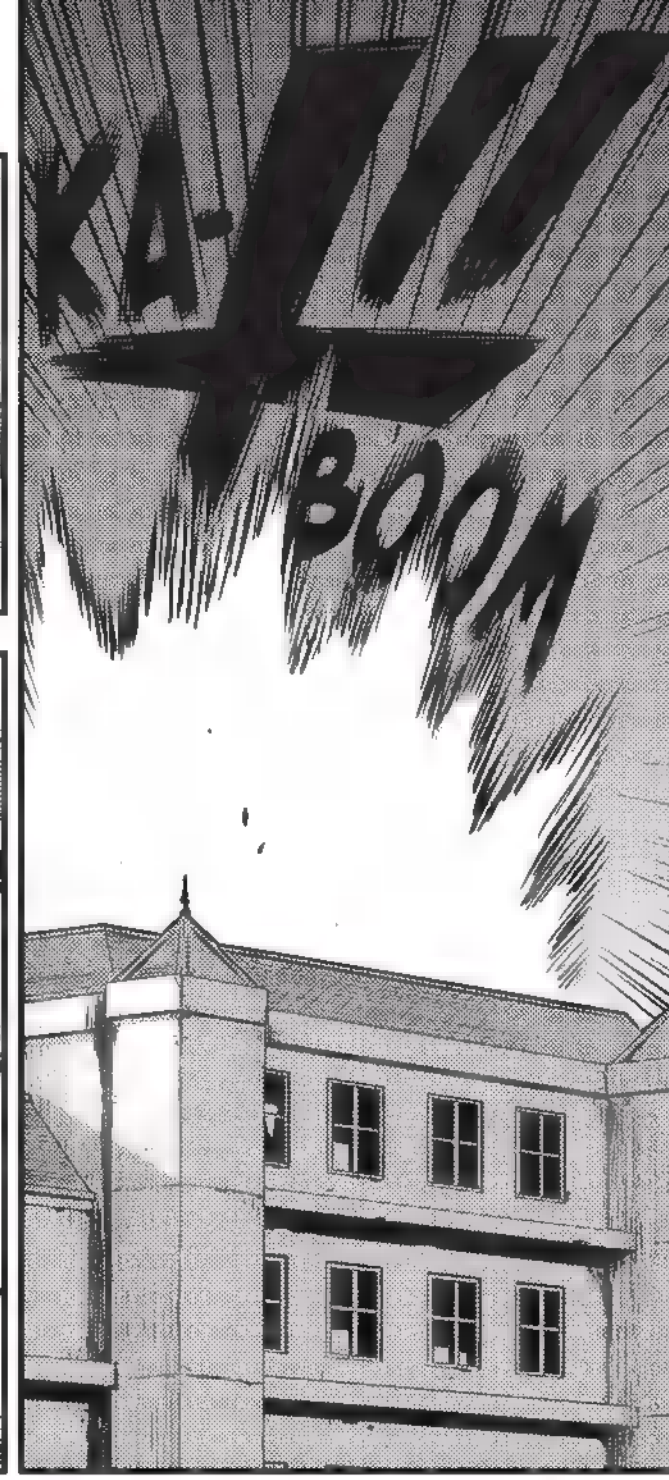
WAK

WAK

CHOOM
Sword of Light!
GWOOSH
Come, Flames!

SON OF A...


WHOA. THOSE SPELLS WERE SO FAST...!
FWOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM


KA-
BOOM

THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO STICK AROUND AND DUKE IT OUT WITH ME.
IF HIS GOAL IS THE SWORD, WHY ISN'T HE RUNNING AWAY?

I DON'T GET IT.

SHUD DER

WHIRL

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE?!

TMP

THIS GUY IS JUST A DECOY!

DON'T JUST LEAVE US!

YOU TWO HANDLE THE REST!
A-ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

I FEEL TROUBLE ...

IN HERE!
WHAM

TELL ME THE LOCATION OF THE SWORD OF BAL-DANDERS.
GLINT
A BODY-GUARD? THEN I SHALL ASK HIM, TOO.
OR I'LL HIT HER, TOO.
GLANCE
CREAK
I CAN'T USE MY SWORD OF LIGHT...
?!
FWOOSH

Fly.

VWOOM

VWOOM

SWSH

HE'S FAST!!

FOOM

AH!

SHOVE

NGH!

AM

BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S HURT HER.

HE'S GOT MARIA-BELLE ...

GLINT

WHERE'S YOUR OTHER DAUGH-TER?

SHT

MISTER ORPHEN ?!

TUP TUP TUP

FLOP

CLAIOMH? SH-SHE'S ASLEEP IN HER ROOM! SOMEHOW...

ZWISH

Blade of Demons!

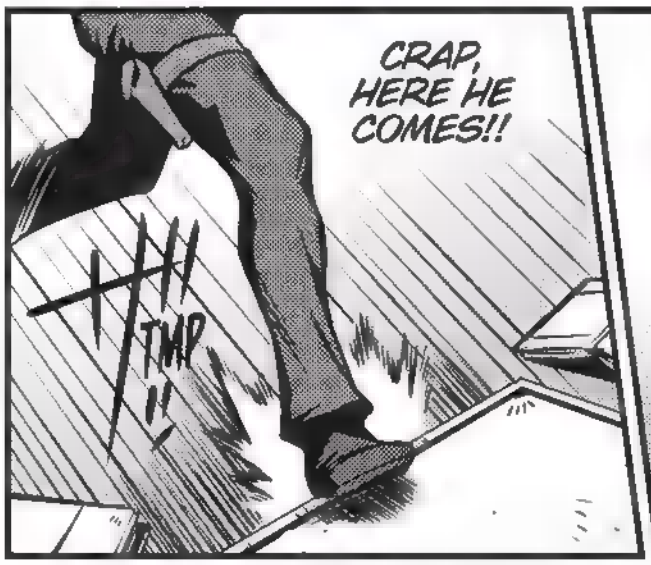
PER-FECT!

I brandish thee...

FWSH
ZWAASH

Guide my path: Death-song Starling!
KRSH
KRSH
CLUNK
KRSH
TMP
TMP
TUMP

Come, Wall.



Gather at my command: Shield of Amber!

SHWOOOO

FWOOO

TUMP

BUT NOW...

EVEN THAT BLAST OF AIR PRESSURE ONLY SLOWED HIM FOR A SECOND.

Come, Wall!

TMP

I spin thee thus...

CLENCH!

I'VE GOT AN OPEN-ING!

Halo Armor!

FOOF

CLINK

YOU'VE GROWN STRONG, KRYLAN-CELO.

SHF

FWAP

.....

FSHH

FSHH

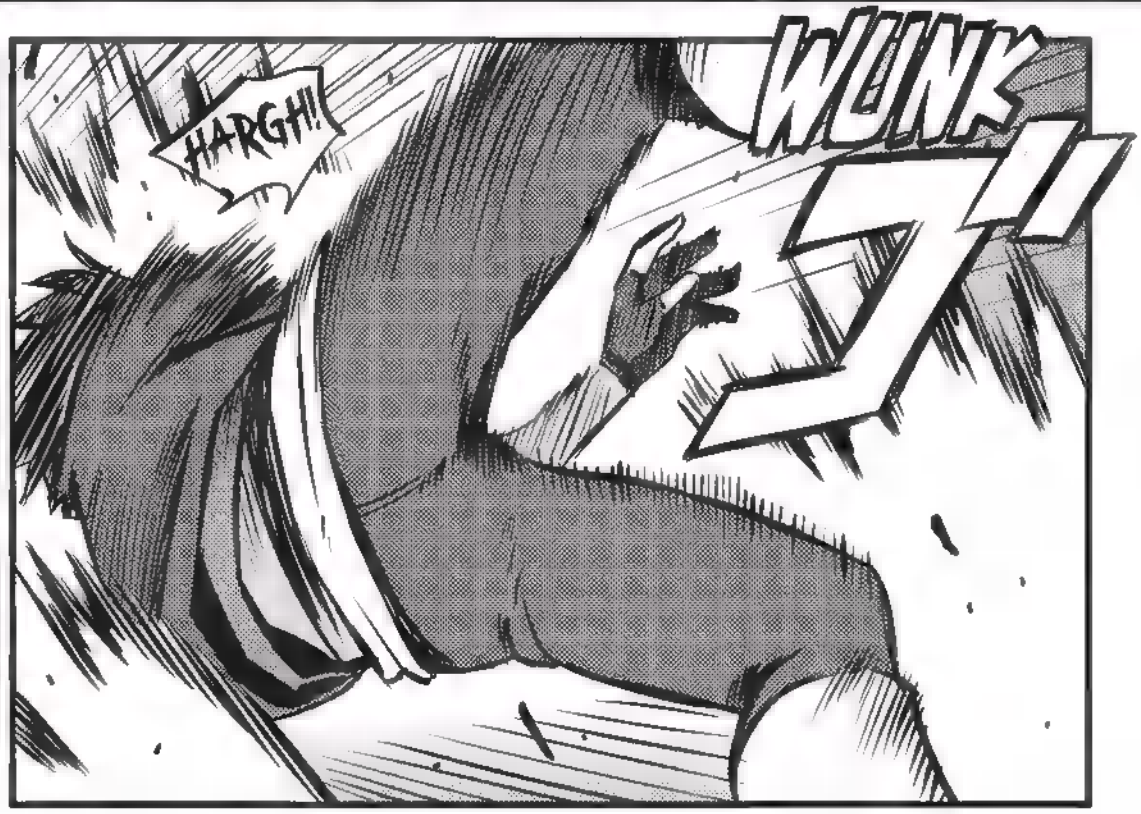
YOU'RE DONE HERE, THIEF.

CHILD-MAN?!
"YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF FIXING THIS. HOWEVER... PERHAPS I CAN DEAL WITH HER."

Fly.

TAP

FWOOM

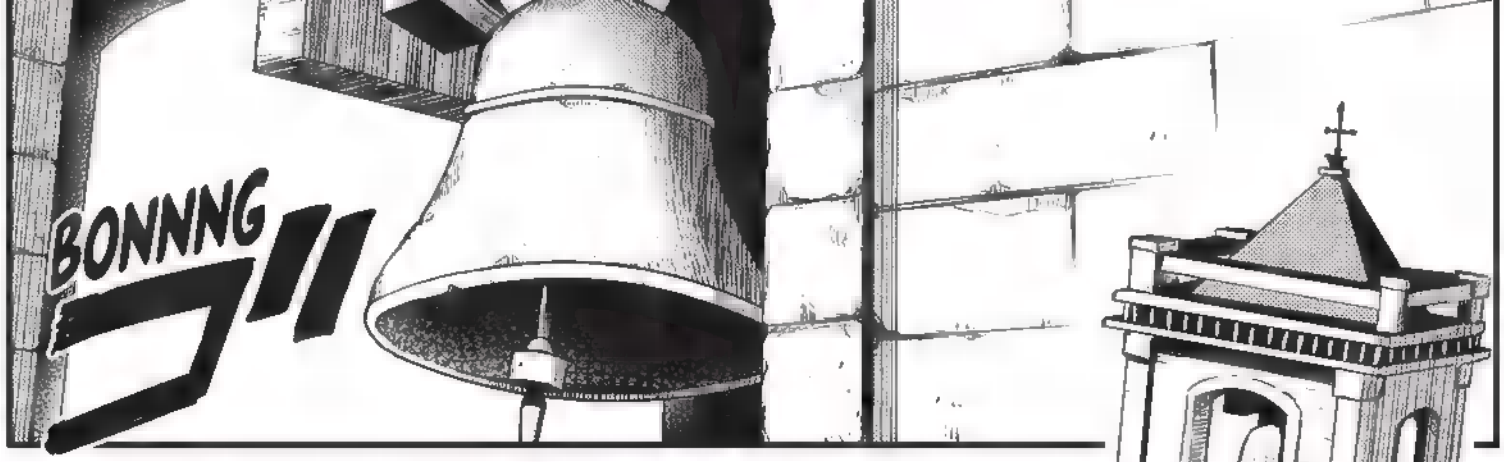


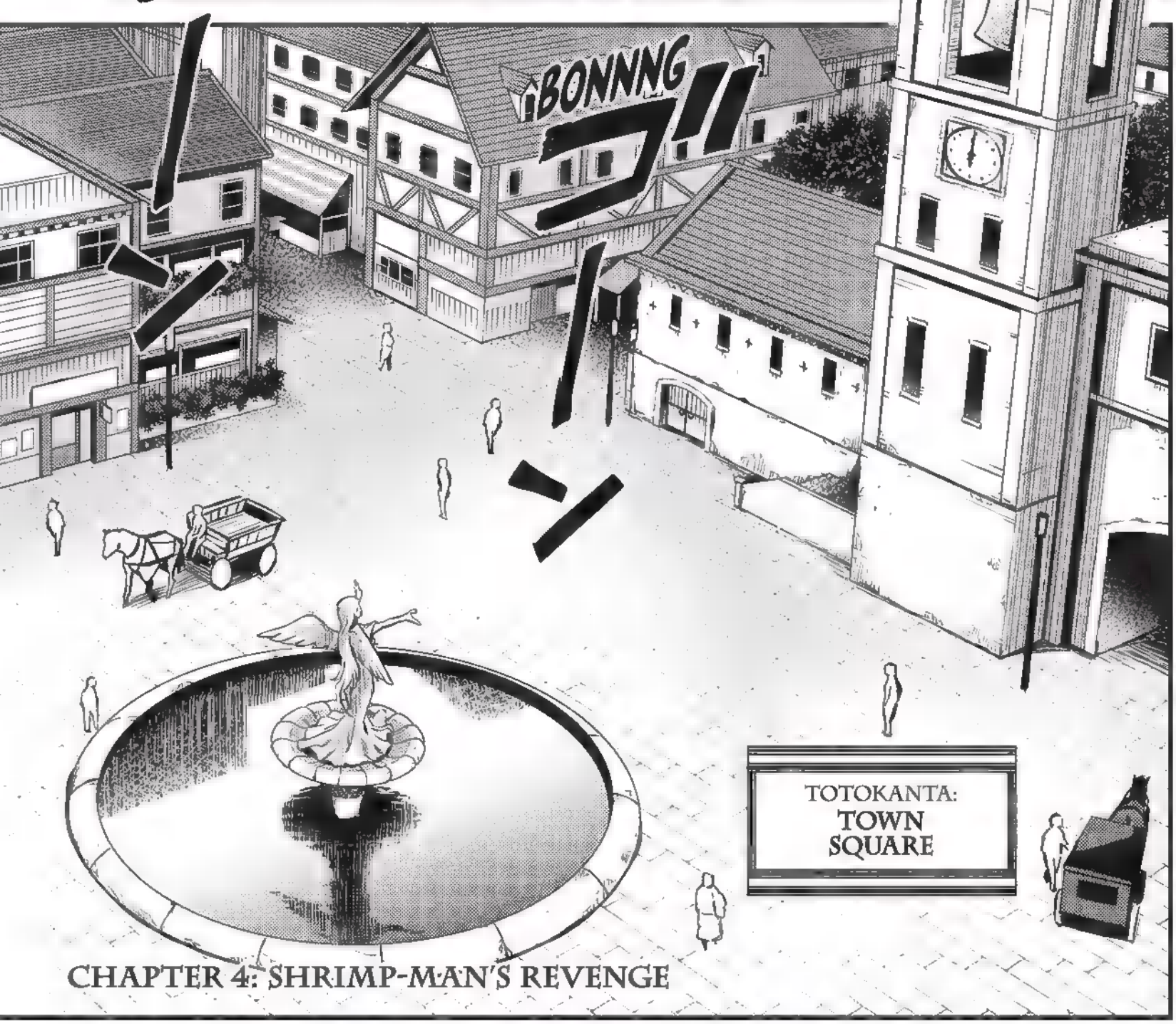
CHILDMAN'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE TOWER OF FANGS! IF THAT BASTARD IS SUDDENLY SHOWING UP HERE...

THEN THAT SWORD...!

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

CHARACTER DESIGNS ②: CLAIOMH

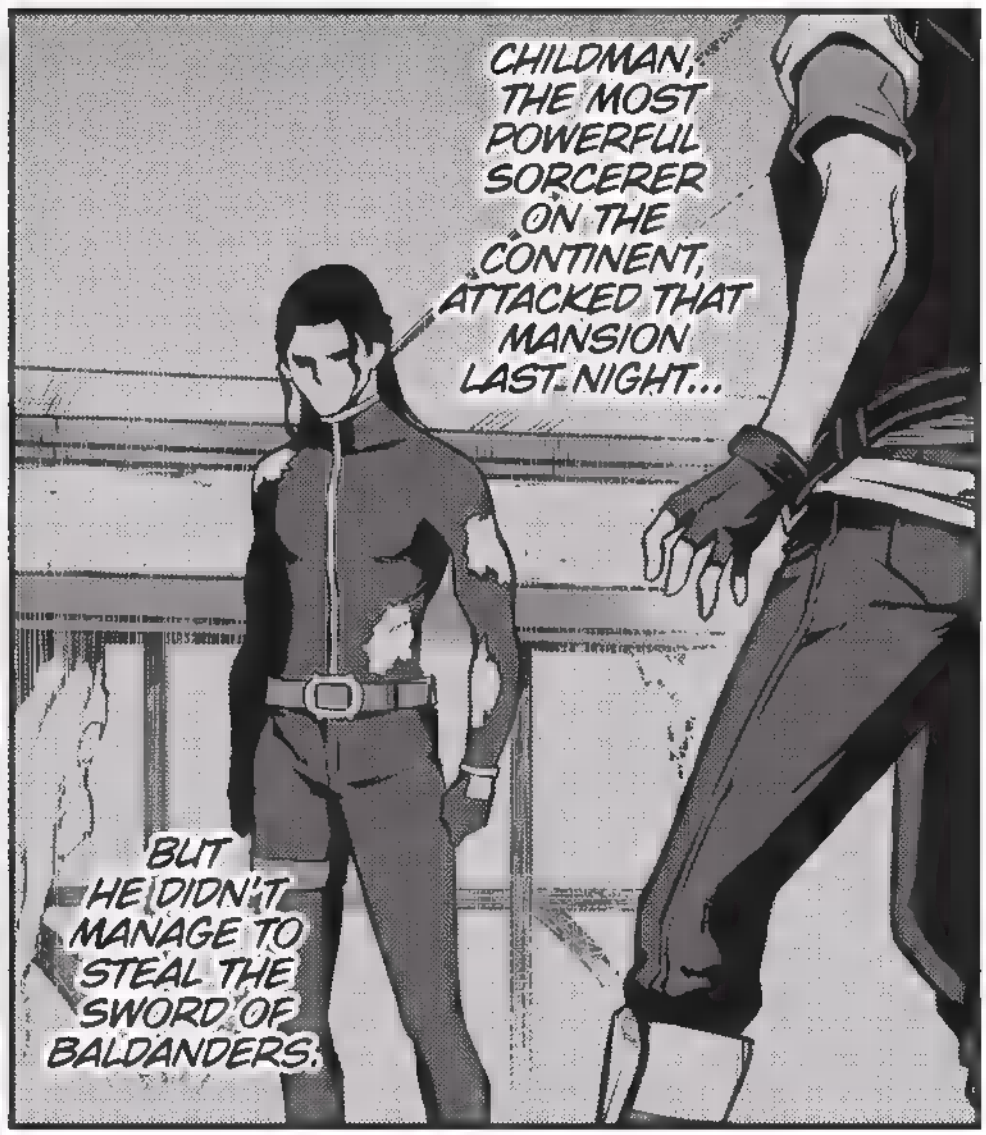




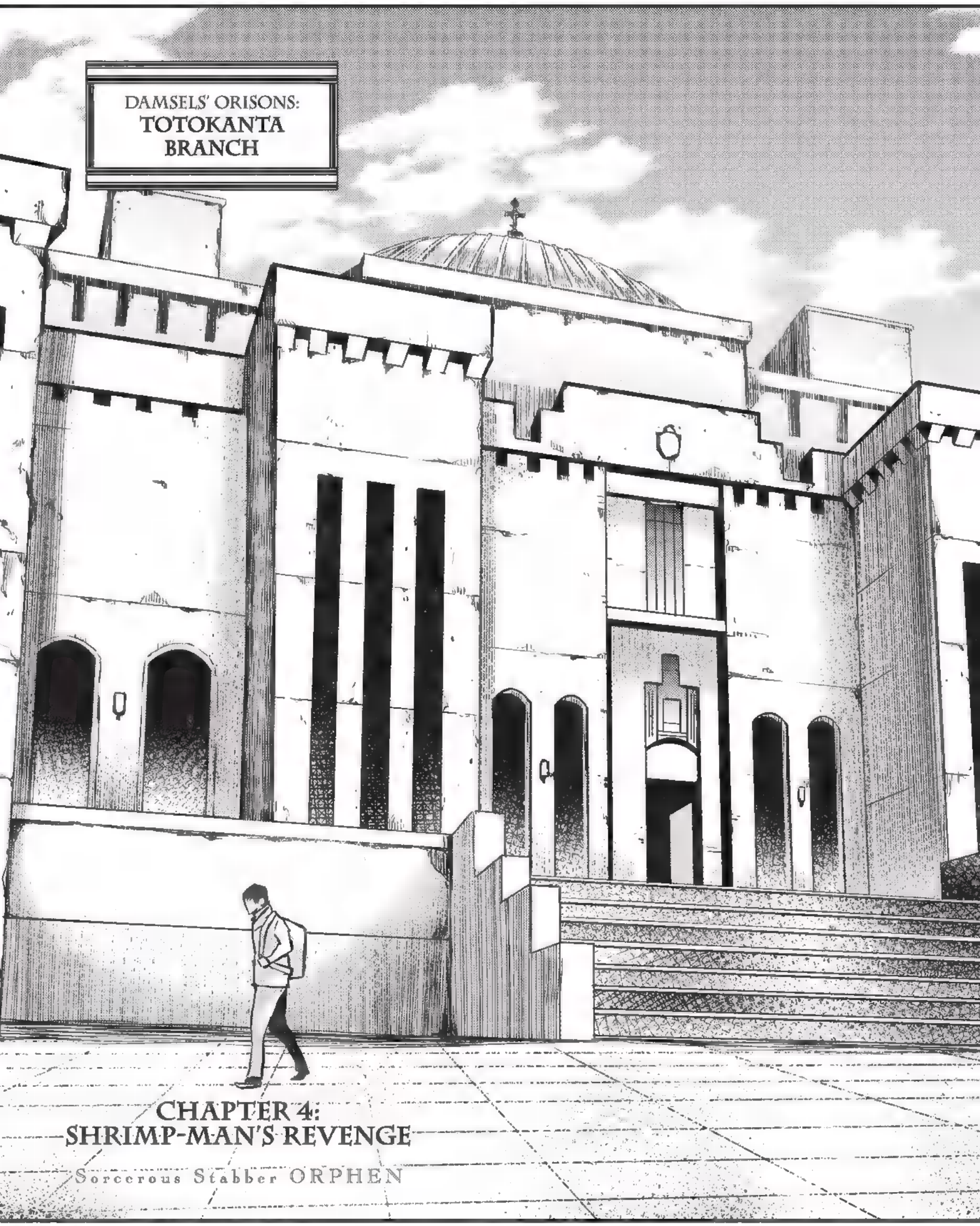
CHAPTER 4: SHRIMP-MAN'S REVENGE

HE NAILED ME RIGHT IN THE GUT WITH THAT ATTACK.
FREAKIN' CHILD-MAN...
EVERYTHING STILL HURTS.
AT LEAST I USED A HEALING SPELL RIGHT AFTER...
KLAK
KLAK
MAN.
"YOU'VE GROWN STRONG, KRYLAN-CELO."

THAT MEANS I'M GONNA HAVE TO FACE HIM AGAIN.



I'M GOING AFTER HIM, BEFORE HE GETS A CHANCE TO BREATHE!



CHAPTER 4: SHRIMP-MAN'S REVENGE

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

WOW, THE OFFICES FOR THE CONTINENTAL SORCERERS' ASSOCIATION ...
OOOH, NEAT!
ARE YOU SURE THEY WON'T KICK US OUT FOR COMING WITH YOU?
LIKE THEY'LL LET OUR CROOK OF A BLACK SORCERER JUST WALTZ IN.

WHY WOULD I SHOW OFF TO A TURD?!
QUIT TRYING TO SHOW OFF.
COOL, YOU HAVE SORCERER FRIENDS?
I'VE GOT A BUDDY HERE. ALSO, SHUT UP!

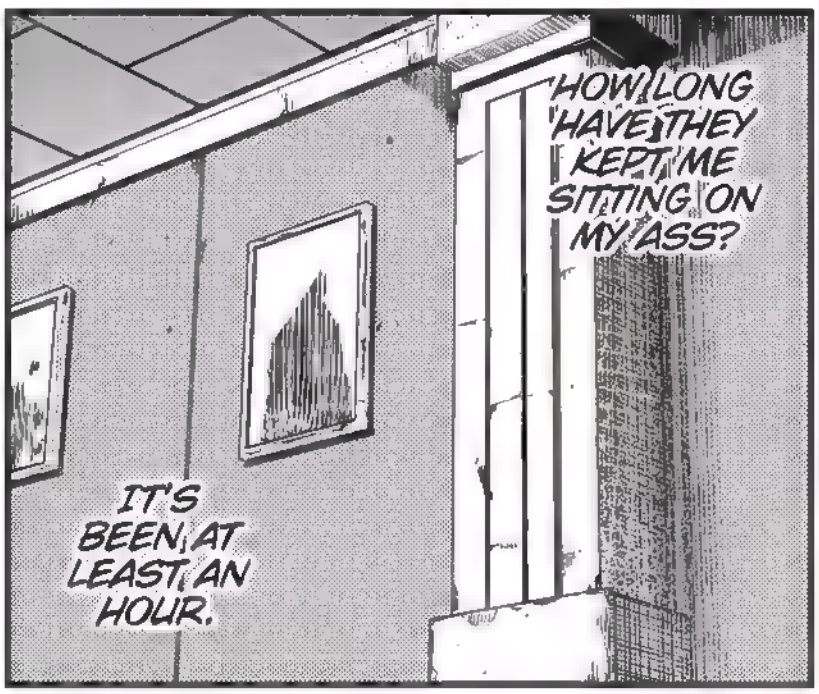
ONLY SORCERERS PAST THIS POINT.

THEN WHY'D YOU EVEN BRING US HERE?!
AWW! NO FAIR!
I DIDN'T, GENIUS! YOU ALL FOLLOW-ED ME!

GA-CHAK
URPH!
BUMP

JUST WAIT OUT HERE-- THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
I... HOPE.

BONK
CRICK
SIGH.


HOW LONG HAVE THEY KEPT ME SITTING ON MY ASS?
IT'S BEEN AT LEAST AN HOUR.

THIS THING MAY GET ME THROUGH THE DOOR...
CHIK
BUT I GUESS IT DOESN'T GUARANTEE A WARM WELCOME.

KRYLAN-CELO!
KA-CHAK
JEEZ, MAN--YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IT IS YOU!
YOU WROTE "ORPHEN" ON THE WAITING LIST, AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO REALIZED IT MIGHT BE YOU!

YAAAWN...
WASSAT?
Before.
After.
UM... YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT, THOUGH.

YIKES. YOU KNOW...
THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER POWERFUL SORCERERS EVERY YEAR.
IF YOU TRIED, YOU COULD GET A MINISTERIAL POSITION, EASY.
KINDA BEEN IN FREEFALL, IF YOU CAN'T TELL.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RUN A PSYCHOTIC SYSTEM.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY?

THE TOWER'S NO GUARANTEE, EITHER. I GOT THROUGH TO BECOME A GLORIFIED PAGE.

RATHER THAN RISK THEIR LIVES TO TRY AND MAKE IT THROUGH THE TOWER...
PEOPLE LEARN *JUST* ENOUGH TO MAKE A QUIET LITTLE LIFE ON THEIR OWN.

WITHOUT A RIVAL TO FIRE ME UP, MY GRADES PLUMMETED.
AFTER YOU DROPPED OUT, I COULDN'T FIND MY MOTIVATION ANYMORE.
NEVER MIND MAKING IT AS A COURT SORCERER ...

NOW I CAN ONLY CLING TO THIS CRUMMY OFFICE JOB.
HEARTIA.
I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE.

I'M HUNTING DOWN THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE MASTER CHILDMAN.

YEAH. LAST NIGHT, HE ATTACKED THE MANSION OF THE EVERLASTING FAMILY.

OUR PROFES-SOR?

RUSTLE

I MEAN... IF HE CAME HERE, I DEFINITELY WOULD'VE KNOWN.

IT'S POSSIBLE HE WAS ON SOME JOB FOR THE DAMSELS' ORISONS.

MY GUESS IS HE'S BEEN THROUGH HERE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

"EVERLASTING"? OH--THAT BIG MERCHANT FAMILY, RIGHT? BUT THERE'S NO WAY MASTER CHILDMAN WOULD EVER...

WE SEE EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, AND YOU TURN IT INTO AN ACCUSATION?!

DAMMIT, KRYLAN-CELO-- THAT'S *ENOUGH!*

HEARTIA...

I HAVEN'T RULE OUT YOU BEING IN ON IT.

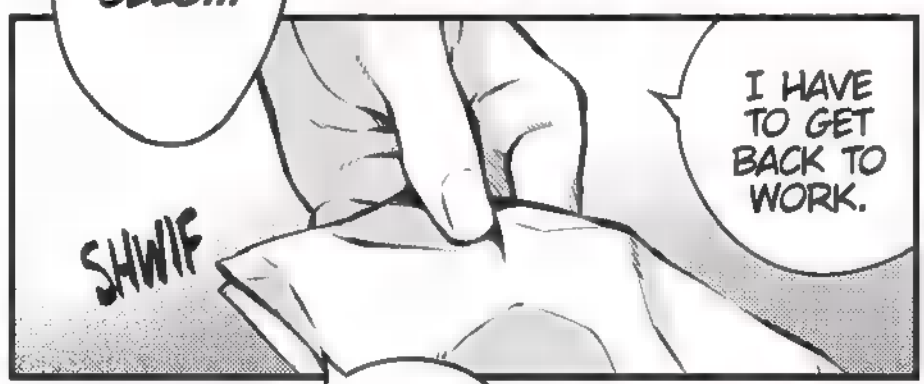
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HEARTIA.

LOOK, I FEEL BAD ABOUT AZALIE-- I REALLY DO! AND I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D BE SO UPSET ABOUT IT.

BUT...

KRYLAN-CELO...

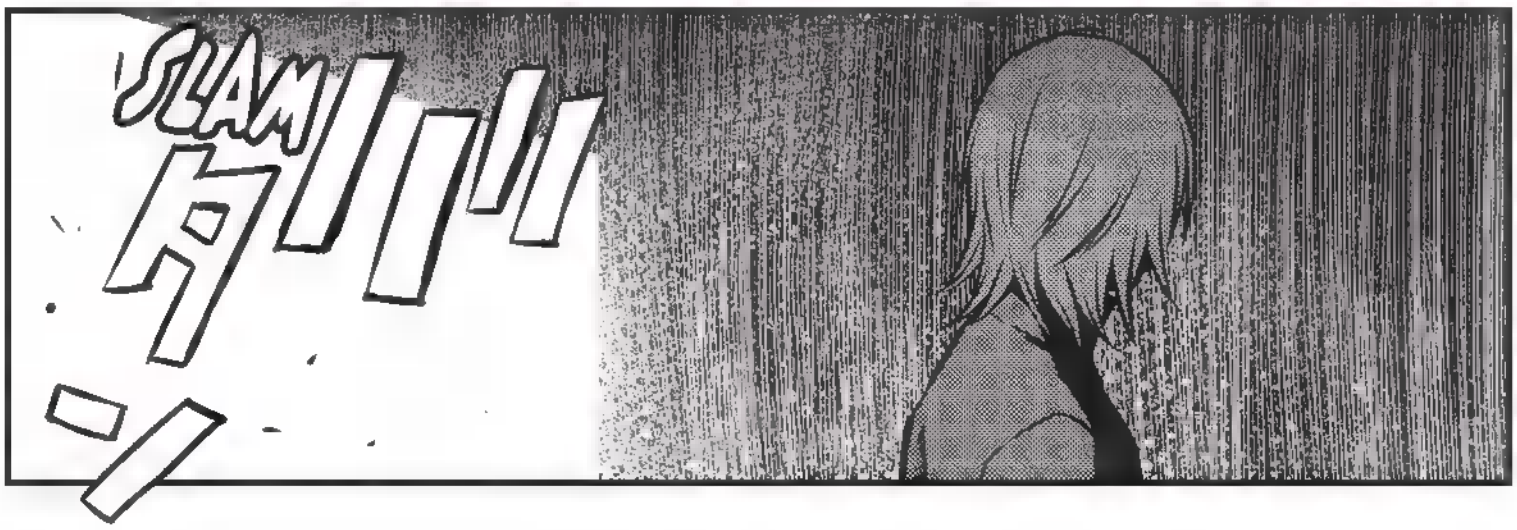

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
SHWIF

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU... LEAVE?
TA-TMP
YOINK

I DIDN'T EVEN MENTION AZALIE.

THE GUY YOU USED TO CALL KRYLAN-CELO...
MY NAME'S ORPHEN, HEARTIA.

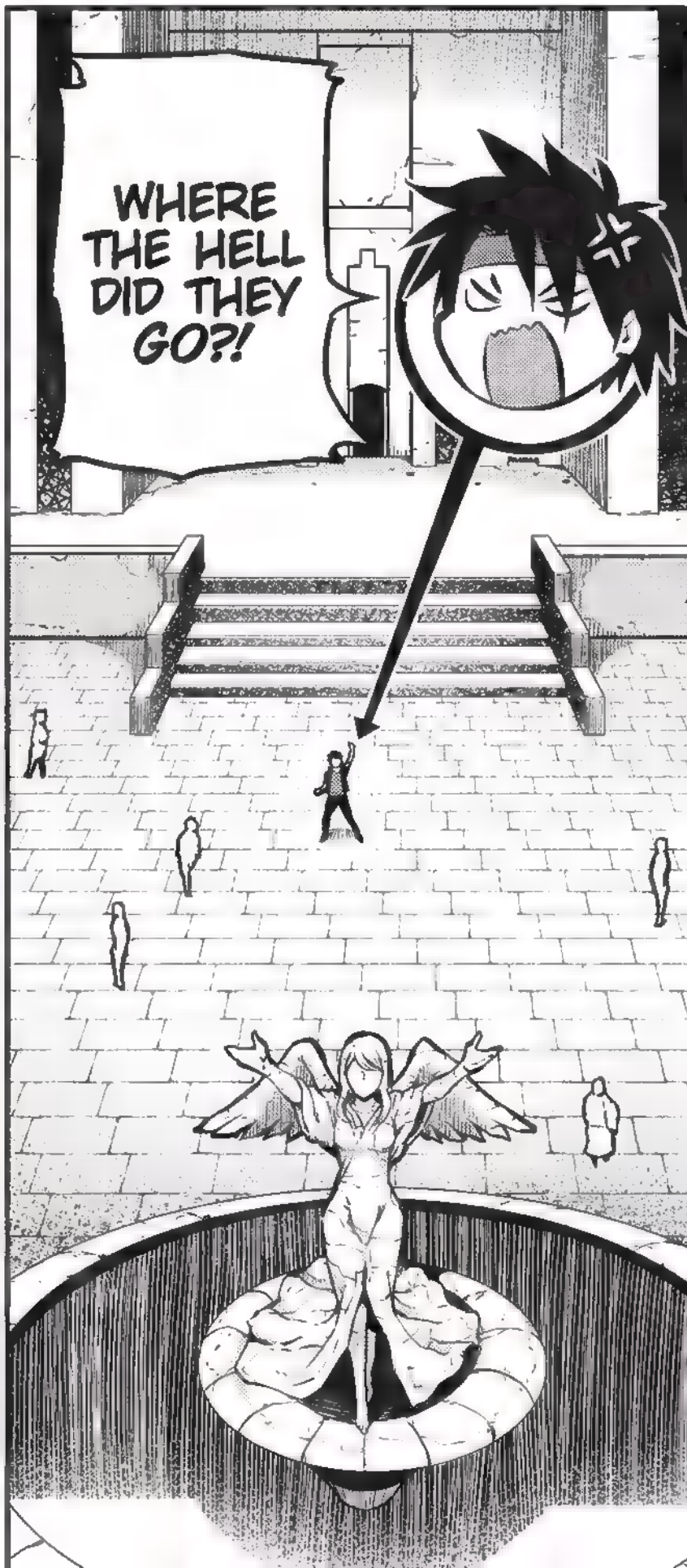
IS DEAD.

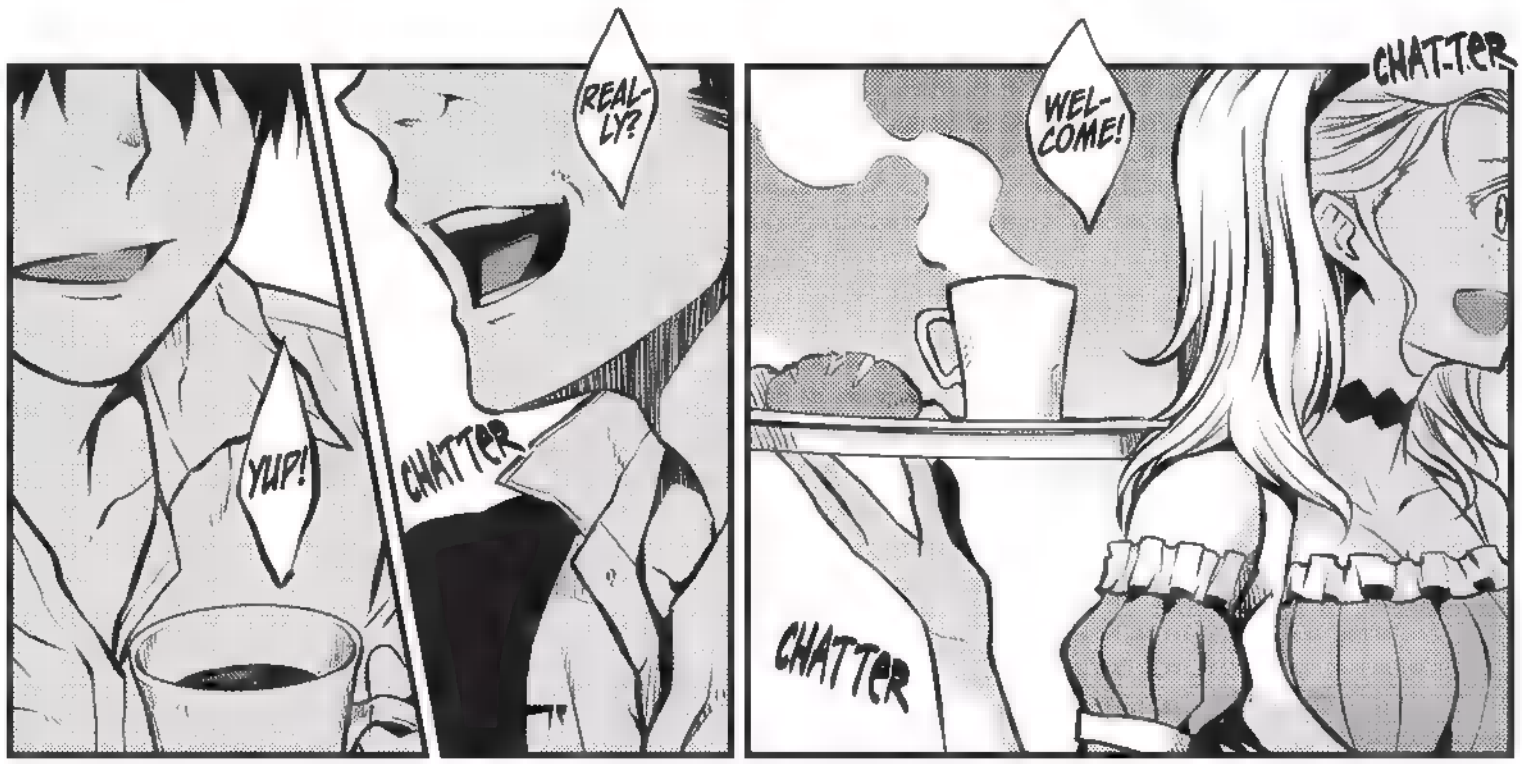


I TOLD THEM... TO WAIT.

CRAP!
STOMP
STOMP

I'M GONNA LEAVE WITHOUT 'EM.
Tea Room
STOMP


WHERE THE HELL DID THEY GO?!

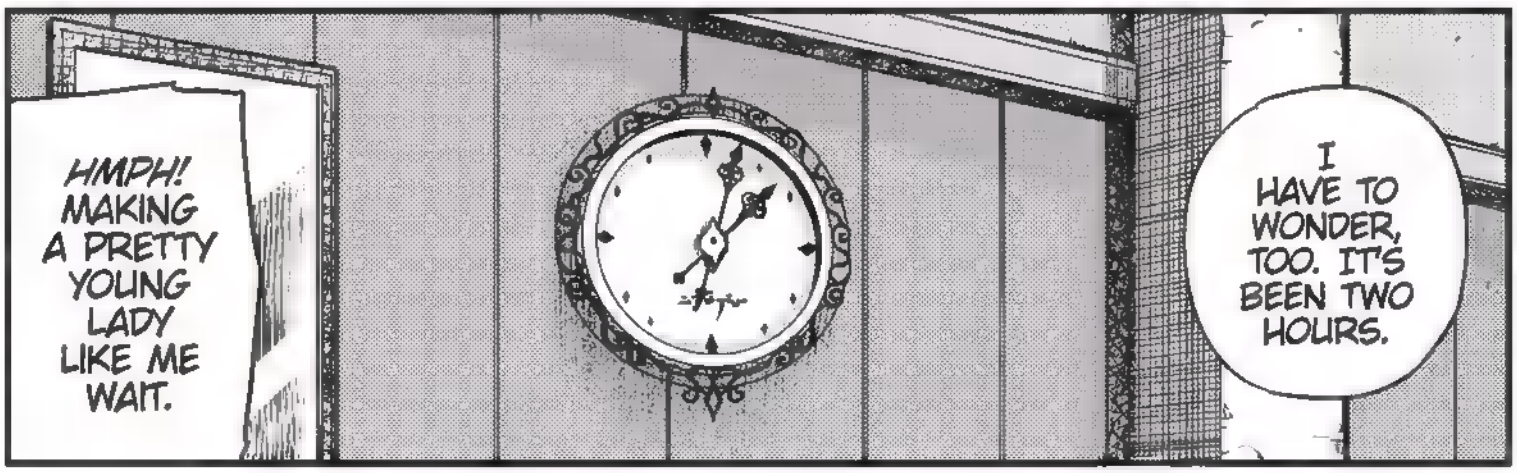

YUP!
REAL-LY?
CHATTER
WEL-COME!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CLINK
カラ
CHATTER
ガヤ
KLATTA
カチャ
CHATTER
ガヤ
CLINK
カチャ

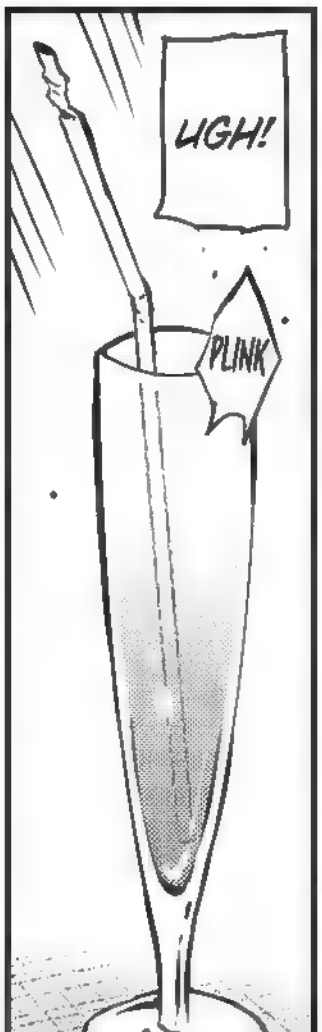
HE'S SO SLOOOW.

SNORE

FLOP

WHAT THE HECK IS TAKING ORPHEN SO LONG?

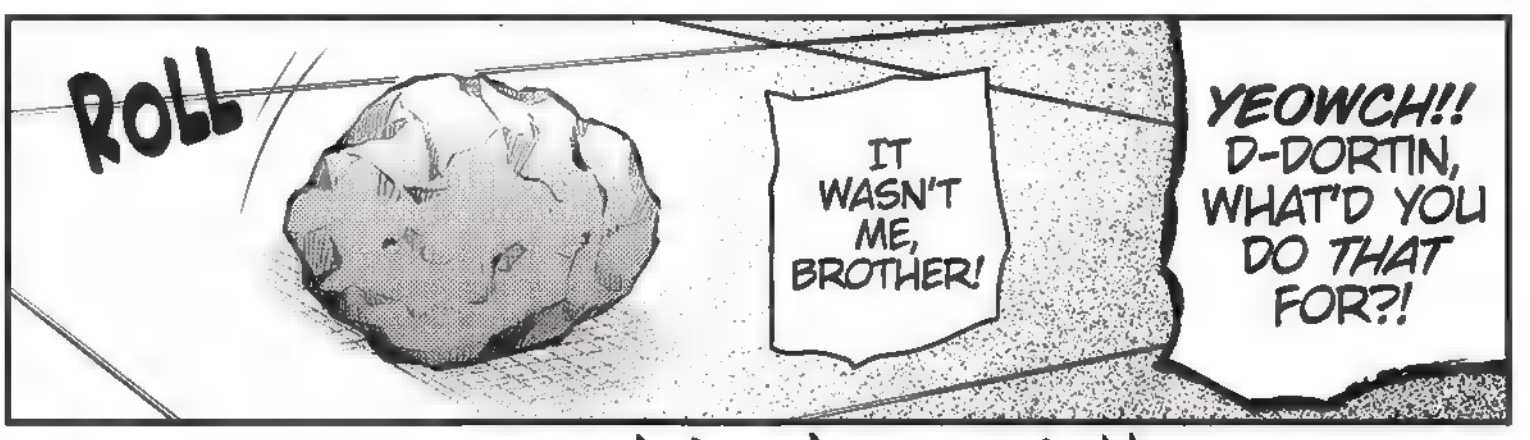




THWAK
BRPH!

YOU TWO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HIM.
ENOUGH. I NEED THE BATH-ROOM.
THAT INCLUDES YOU, BROTHER!

KRISH
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DREAM--
NWUH?
CAN'T EAT 'NOTHER BITE...


ROLL
IT WASN'T ME, BROTHER!
YEOWCH!! D-DORTIN, WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!

FLAP

MWUAH HA HA HA HA HA!
HOLD ON. THIS LAUGH.
IT CAN'T BE...
CHAK

NOT! MY! NAME!
SHRIMP-MAN?!
Come, Light!

RUN!
CLUNK
CLATTER
EYAAH!

MY NAME IS CLAIOMH EVER-LASTING!
SHA-
AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!
GLEAM
COME AND FIGHT ME, BIG BOY!
JOLT
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.
LOOM
SHING

TMP
HI-YAAA!!
WHIRL
FOOSH
HE VANISHED ?!
HUH?
?!
IS OVER THERE, HIDING IN THE BACK DOORWAY!
CREAK
HIS REAL SELF...
I-IT'S AN ILLU-SION!

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH INSULTS FROM YOU!!
RRGH!
WAIT, THE SORCERER ISN'T WITH YOU?! WHERE IS HE?!
BWSH
!!
DON'T KNOW AND DON'T CARE, YOU MASKED PERV!
CLANG!

GRSH
IF YOU INSIST, MISS.
GRSH
GRSH
BLACK TIGER CAN PLAY WITH YOU!
GRSH
GRSH
GRSH
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
I'LL FACE YOU INSTEAD.
KA-TANG
TANG

SHE COULD USE MORE FOLLOW-THROUGH.

WOW. SHE'S REALLY GOOD.

STILL, I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST SOME RICH DITZ.

THOSE ARE PRETTY BADASS MOVES.

BUT I'M NOT SURE SHE CAN MATCH SHRIMP-MAN'S EXPERIENCE ...

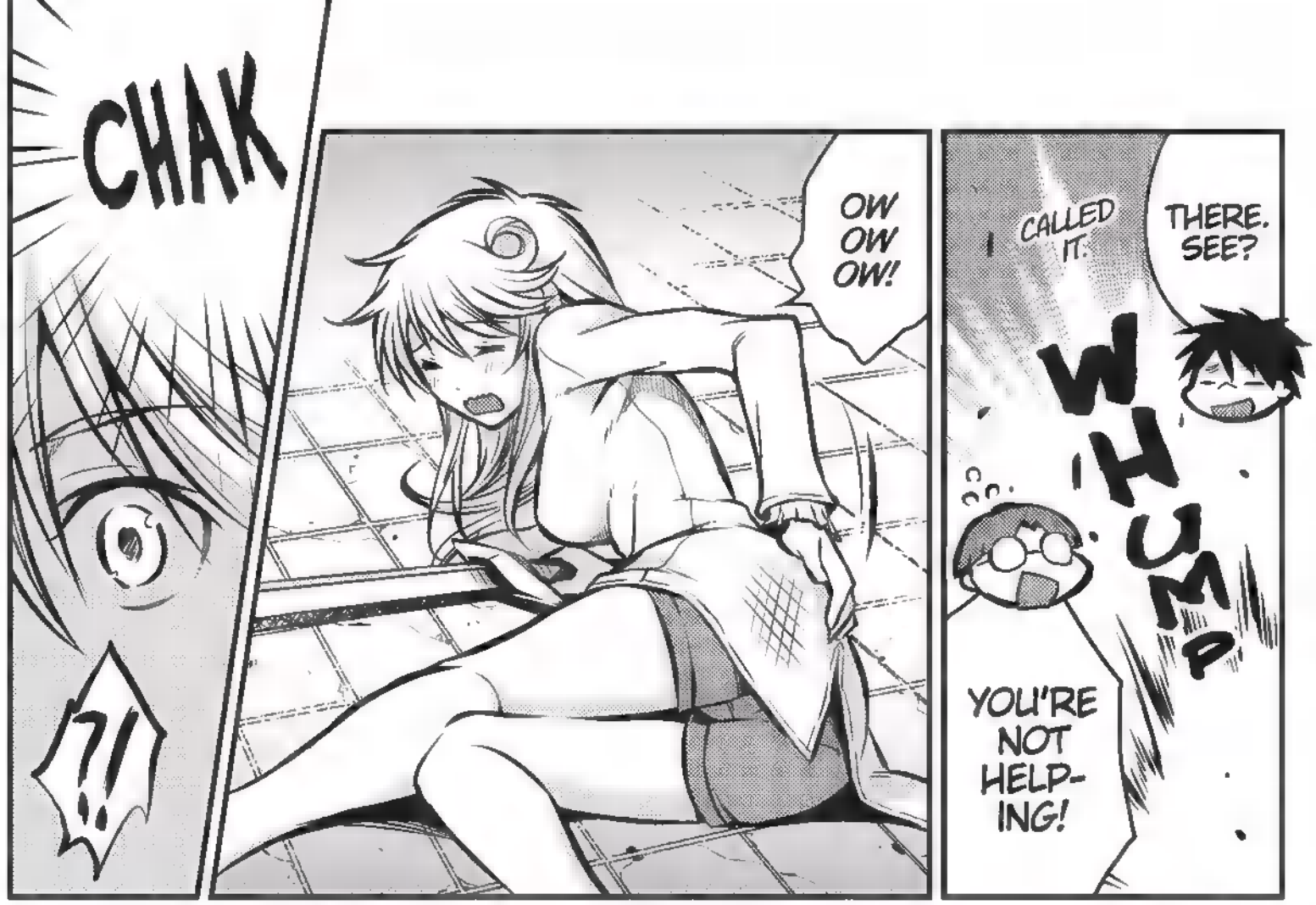
OR HIS ENDUR-ANCE.

TMP

TMP

EVEN IF SHE'S SLICKER THAN HE EXPECTED.
ZWISH
TUP
WHAP

GOTCHA!!
ZWSH
TUP
ACK!
WHOOSH
NO, YOU DON'T!
THWAK


CHAK
?!
OW OW OW!
I CALLED IT.
THERE. SEE?
WHUMP
YOU'RE NOT HELP-ING!

OUR LITTLE GAME ENDS HERE.
SORRY, BUT I HAVE WORK TO DO.
I release thee...

Sword of Light!

CHOOM!!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

YOU'RE LATE, SORCERER !!

TA-

DA

UH... YOU CAN USE A SWORD?

YUP! I LEARNED AT MY SCHOOL CLUB--I'M A STARTER ON THE TEAM.

TUP TUP

I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERY-WHERE FOR YOU.

EW, I'M ALL WET...

WE WERE BUSY TRYING TO DRIVE OFF THAT WEIRDO.

THAT'S NOT A VERY FUN REACTION.

HRM. SURE.

C'MON! YOU COULD ACT SUR-PRISED!

CLACK

THE THREE OF US WERE ALMOST KILLED.

YOU DO REALIZE...

IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT...

DON'T WORRY.

MM, THAT FEELS KINDA NICE.

RUFFLE

THEN THIS SELF-PROCLAIMED "ASSASSIN" ...

TELL 'EM TO PUT IT ON SHRIMP-MAN'S TAB.

SO, UM, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS CAFÉ?

COULDN'T HURT A FLY!

TO BE CONTINUED

preview

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

A COLD-BLOODED LOAN SHARK.

THEY CALL HIM A RUTH-LESS SORCER-ER.

AND SOME-TIMES...

SUCCES-
SOR
OF THE
RAZOR
EDGE.

TA-
TUMP
TA-
TUMP
THEY SAY
HE'S ONE
OF THE
GREATEST
SORCERERS
ON THE
CONTINENT.
SKCH.

RRRRA-
AAWR!

WHAP!
BWSH.

I release thee...
WOOSH
Sword of Light!
BWOO
OO

CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
SPLAT
THAK
WHOOOM
SPLAT
FNAP
THUMP

BAD DAY, SIR?

KRIK

I CAN LOAN YOU SOME CASH.

HUH...? M-MONEY?!

.....

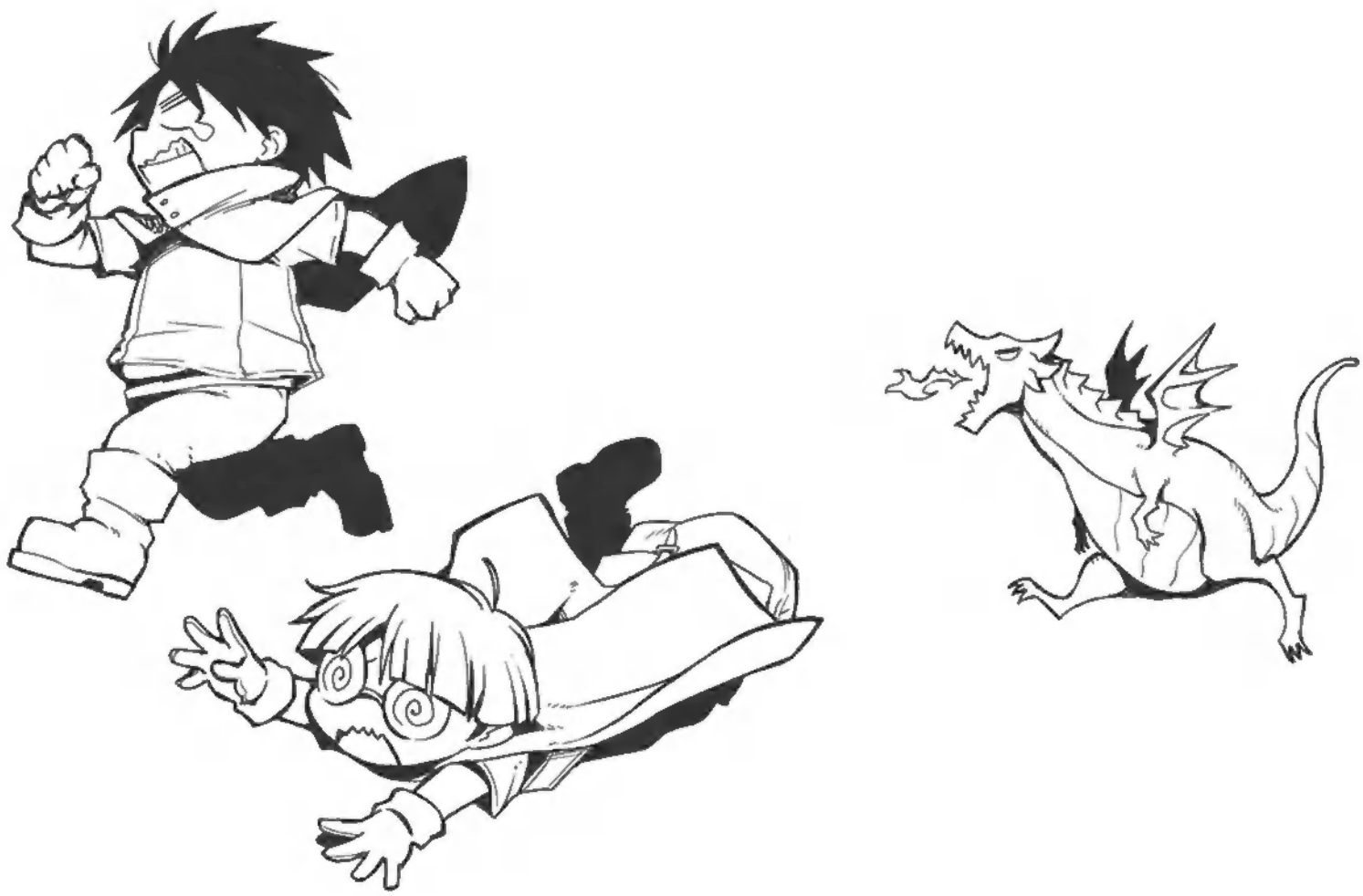
SMIRK

BUT HE HAD ONLY ONE NAME FOR HIMSELF.

"ORPHEN."

Chapter 1: A Quick Scene at Bagup's Inn

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN



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SORCEROUS STABBER ORPHEN

Heed My Call, Beast! Part 1

story by **YOSHINOBU AKITA** / art by **MURAJI**

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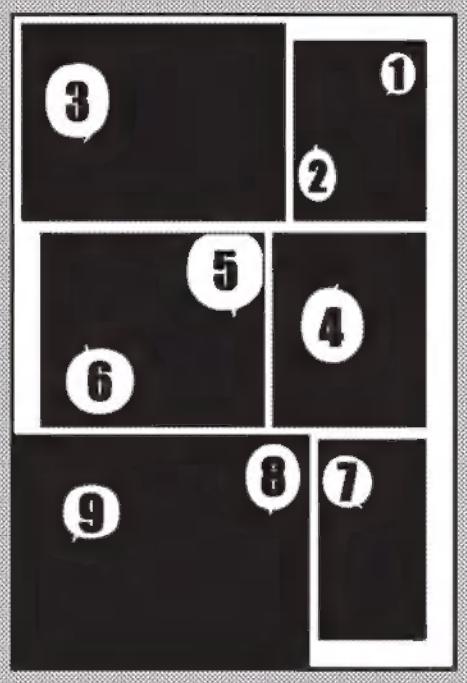
This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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He calls himself Orphen: a rogue sorcerer who turned his back on the Tower of Fangs, the powerful academy that trained him. In those hallowed halls, a terrible curse fell upon his best friend Azalie, twisting her into a monstrous beast...and the teachers decided to simply cover it up. Forsaking his studies and even his own name, Orphen now wanders the land searching for Azalie, and a cure for what she has become. It won't be easy—a quest brimming with adventure, spells, and swords awaits!

TEEN

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